



# AFFORDABLE NEW HOMES PLANNED

Report by Kimberley Crayton-Brown

**MORE than 100 homes will be built on a new estate in a multi-million pound scheme to create affordable housing in Dudley.**

It is part of plans to build 350 homes in the borough over the next five years as part of a £40m investment.

More than £6m of the funding was confirmed earlier this year by Government and Dudley Council is now looking to find a partner to develop the first site and build 130 homes, some of which will be council housing.

The authority has published a public notice stating they propose to dispose of land forming part of the public open space at the rear of Midlepark Road and Russells Hall Road.

Councillor Gaye Partridge, cabinet member for housing services, said: "Following a successful bid from the Local Growth Fund, Dudley Council have published a tender document to select a house builder to build approximately 130 homes, of which the council will retain the ownership of 42 properties to add to its stock of council homes.

"The remainder of the homes will be sold by the selected partner.

"This forms part of Dudley's overall plan to deliver around 350 new council homes to meet local housing need over the next few years."

## Environment

The house builder's proposals will be evaluated on the quality of the design and how it fits into the local environment, she said.

Cabinet members approved the plans last year, which will see £15.6m invested over the next three years to get the scheme off the ground.

As well as the £6.2m of Local Growth Funding, the council is looking to add a further £11.5m into the new build budget in 2018/19, spending a total of £40.6m over the next five years.

Among the areas which could have housing are former garage sites and the old archives building on Mount Pleasant Street in Coseley.

The former Wren's Nest Estate Office has also been earmarked for housing along with a site in Beech Road, Kingswinford, and the council will look to identify and develop additional sites subject to planning permission.

Meanwhile, in Coseley more than 60 acres of disused industrial land will be transformed to provide hundreds of homes and a supermarket under plans lodged.

Skelton Group Investments want to create the 925-home estate on three business parks in Coseley, branding the scheme Coseley Park.

Under the firm's outline application submitted to Dudley Council, all the site's existing buildings will be flattened except from a former municipal building which would be turned into offices. Of the 925 new homes mooted, 870 would be houses and 55 flats.

## VICTIM URGES CULPRITS TO GIVE THEMSELVES UP



Sedgley hit-and-run victim John Rudge is recovering in Russells Hall Hospital after a van driver left him lying in the street

A PENSIONER who was left in a critical condition after a hit-and-run in Sedgley has urged the culprits to give themselves up to police.

John Rudge, aged 78, was left for dead after the shocking incident on August 13 on Bilston Street but he has made a remarkable recovery.

Mr Rudge said the van driver and passenger needed to give themselves up to police. Mr Rudge had been to the Spar store on the street before he stepped out to cross the road and was knocked over by the van.

He hit his head on the road and suffered a concussion. The van driver circled back to check on his condition and then sped off. The van was dumped in Tipton.

Mr Rudge, who is a familiar face around Sedgley as he walks his dog Charlie every day, said: "I decided to go down to the shop to get some lard, walked in bought it and then went outside to step off the pavement.

"I did all the procedures, looking both ways but the van must have come around the corner so fast I didn't see it.

"After they knocked me over I've been told

they drove back to look and see if I was okay and then they drove off.

Describing those responsible as 'scoundrels', Mr Rudge added: "I really hope they are caught."

Mr Rudge is hoping to return home this week and can't wait to see 'his little friend' Charlie.

His cousin Janet Ash, 71, who has visited him in hospital every day, said she was disgusted by the actions of the driver and passenger. "They knew they had hit John but then they drove off — it's terrible," she said.

## COMMUNITY

### Hundreds backing petition to save pub

A PETITION calling for a Woodseton pub to be saved from the bulldozer has been signed by more than 300 people.

The Summerhouse Inn, in Sedgley Road West, could be turned into a Co-op store.

There has been a show of support for the pub from the community with councillors Keiran Casey and Adam Aston writing to every resident asking them their views.

Councillor Casey said: "Local pubs are important to the community.

"The Summerhouse is a popular spot and if people want it to stay as a pub then it should."

## MOPEDS

### Police crack down on nuisance bikers

YOBS have been causing a nuisance riding mopeds and scrambler bikes around Lower Gornal.

Police have hit riders with fixed penalty fines and say they are working towards bringing individuals before the courts.

Inspector Laura Jones, from Dudley Police, said: "A selection of mopeds and scramblers are currently causing issues around the Lower Gornal area. Files are currently being collated to summons main offenders to court."

## VIEWERS

### Millions watched Lenny's TV drama

MILLIONS of viewers tuned in on Monday to watch the 'fantasy memoir' written by Dudley's favourite son, Sir Lenny Henry.

Danny and the Human Zoo, which aired at 9pm on BBC1, was a loose re-telling of the star's teenage years in the town during the 1970s.

It was filmed on location in the Black Country, including at Dudley Zoo, Buffery Park, the town's canal and the Netherton Tunnel.

Wednesbury resident Kascion Franklin starred as Danny Fearon — a fictional character based on the young Lenny — in his first lead role in a television play.

## INSIDE

### HISTORY IS SET IN STONE



PAGE 18



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# Construction snag delays start to the new term

PARENTS are angry after it emerged the start of a primary school's new term will be delayed.

The summer break will be extended by one week at Manor Primary School in Coseley, pushing back the term start date from September 7 to September 14.

The work to build new classrooms at the school in Ettingshall Road is the first phase of a project to see the school capacity rise to 630 by 2021.

Headteacher Anita Cliff said: "Unfortunately the building work to increase classrooms ready for our increase in standard number in September is not going to be finished for the start of term. Builders have worked late into the evenings and weekends to try and complete the job.

"We are very sorry that we are going to have to delay the start of term for our children."

A parent from Bilston, who has a son and a daughter at the school, said: "I am a working parent and no provision has been made for childcare. I would be interested to know what would happen if I took my children out for a week."

Claire Drake, education boss at Wolverhampton City Council, said: "Unfortunately, unavoidable supply chain delays have meant that this particular programme is running a few days behind schedule and it has therefore been necessary to delay the opening of the school. We apologise for the inevitable inconvenience this will cause. Parents have been advised at the earliest opportunity."

# Store plan at pub to go ahead

ELEVENTH hour talks with Marston's have ended in disappointment for campaigners fighting to save a popular pub.

Bill Etheridge MEP, who has led the campaign to prevent the Seven Stars in Sedgley, from being turned into a Morrisons supermarket, met with Marston's boss Ralph Findlay.

The Sedgley councillor said Mr Findlay confirmed the plans would go ahead. Dudley Council had refused permission but an appeal was upheld by the Planning Inspectorate.

He said: "I will not give up on trying to save this pub until the doors close."

Last month up to 20 campaigners from the pub protested against the closure outside the brewers' offices in Wolverhampton.

# Body found in car parked at hospital

THE body of a woman was found in a car in the grounds of Dudley's Russells Hall Hospital on Friday.

It comes after a 46-year-old woman was reported missing. The death is not being treated as suspicious.

# Series celebrates importance of canals



Titford Pump House, Oldbury

A NEW series celebrating canal systems across the region will look at the role the waterways played in building the nation.

The Black Country and Staffordshire will feature in the BBC series, Canals: The Making of a Nation, on October 6.

Liz McIvor will make her way along the Worcester and Birmingham canal route, telling a deeper story of how our waterways helped change our lives – and how that legacy lives on today.

Ms McIvor, an expert in industrial

history and curator at Bradford Industrial Museum, aims to show viewers just how instrumental canals were in shaping our modern world and how they came to be.

She said: "Each canal has its own special interest story and each region covered gave a chance to explore a different angle of a massive story."

During the West Midlands episode Ms McIvor visits the Pontcysyllte Aqueduct in Wales, and travels to Birmingham where canals have become catalysts for property development and urban regeneration.

Tony Parker, the show's executive producer, said: "We wanted to tell a different story about canals and look at their wider impact and significance in terms of our history."

"Canals have given us so much over the centuries, and continue to do so. Perhaps it is time to build a few more."

The West Midlands episode Canals – The Making of a Nation (Heritage) will be shown on BBC Four on October 6 at 8pm, as part of the full series which includes other regions across the UK.

# Council finances are 'heading towards a cliff'

**COUNCIL** budgets 'are heading towards a cliff' because of £10 billion worth of extra costs, says a long-serving Dudley councillor.

Reviews of business rates, cuts in rents and a planned increase in the minimum wage will add to the difficult decisions faced by councils already reeling from cuts to their Government grants, says former Dudley Council leader Councillor David Sparks.

The past chairman of The Local Government Association (LGA), which represents 370 authorities in England and Wales, says the Chancellor risks putting a burden on councils that can only be met by scaling back services or cutting them completely.

"Local government finance has been heading towards a cliff for several years," said Councillor Sparks. "The decision to further reduce the ability of local authorities to control their costs brings that cliff nearer and nearer."

"The LGA has to fight this Government's proposals as they mean it is going to be increasingly difficult, if not impossible, in local authorities like Dudley to make ends in future years."

## Reduce

Dudley Council is trying to reduce its spending by £30 million a year as cuts have become a way of life across the West Midlands. But the LGA believes the upcoming spending review in November will bring new pressures.

It has calculated Government policies over the next five years will cost councils £6.3 billion by 2020. This is on top of the £3.6 billion to maintain services at their current level based on demand and inflation.

Costs include exempting house builders from Section 106 payments, which are levies placed on developers to fund road layouts and other local projects. The Government believes removing these levies, worth on average £15,000 per home, will get 200,000 starter homes built as developers pass on the saving.

Other pressures include setting aside £1.75 billion to cover the high volume of business rate appeals expected after the 2017 revaluation.

Also, councils are expecting to have to face costs when Universal Credit is rolled out to housing benefit claimants. The claimants will get the money paid directly to them, rather than the councils, meaning authorities will have to chase those who get into debt.



Sean Lannon, left, and Lee Felton, in the rowing machine fundraiser at Merry Hill ahead of the challenge to row across the Atlantic

# Oarsome task to row the Atlantic

AN adventurer from Dudley is undertaking an oar-some task, rowing across the Atlantic for charity.

Lee Felton will join three other fundraisers for the challenge, none of whom have rowed before. The task will take them from the Canary Islands to Antigua in the Caribbean.

Lee and Sean Lannon drummed up support for the event at the Merry Hill centre. Using rowing machines they are covering the distance from Bristol to Newcastle over nine days, clocking up the number of miles to the next stop on the way before driving them.

The team needs to raise £80,000 just to make it to the start line and so far have reached £10,000.

The 31-year-old gave up his job as a biology teacher in Dubai to focus on the mission. He said: "I got a little bit bored of teaching and fancied another challenge."

The former Summerhill School pupil has joined Dudley Rowing Club at Netherton Reservoir and is undergoing a rigorous safety course.

Support the team at [squareoneatlantic.com](http://squareoneatlantic.com)

## NEWS IN BRIEF

# Damage caused at shopping centre

YOBS have caused damaged to the roof of Stourbridge's Ryemarket Shopping Centre. Shoppers and staff have reported anti-social behaviour at the centre's car park.

Police say they have given two warning letter to youths.

Sgt Andy Holder from Wollaston and Stourbridge Town neighbourhood police team said: "Officers will continue with regular patrols at various times of the stairwell and car park areas."

"There has also been a report of criminal damage to the centre roof."

# Music for all at community day

MUSIC to suit all tastes will be performed at a community day held to celebrate all that is good about Dudley borough.

Visitors will be able to enjoy rock, acoustic and choir performances at the Dudley COMMUNITY Day event on September 19. It will run from 10am until 4pm in Dudley town centre.

Bands taking part include Efflunko, Dead Happy, Bloco Louco, Target by Numbers and Archive.

There will also be performances by NN Dance & Cheer and a church choir and two drumming performances.

# Microsoft course set up at college

DUDLEY College students will have access to some of the most advanced computer courses in the West Midlands following the launch of a Microsoft Office Specialist qualification.

The college joins more than 15,000 Microsoft IT Academies around the world.

The part-time course starts this month on Tuesday evenings at the Broadway Campus and will include specialist modules in Microsoft Word, Excel and PowerPoint.

# Healthy eating is on menu for next course

A COOKING course is being offered up to residents in Gornal to encourage healthier eating and increased physical activity.

Get Cooking! is a six week course that will help attendees cook healthy dishes on a budget.

The next course will start on Monday at Upper Gornal Pentecostal Church, in Eve Lane.

The latest course will run between 1.30pm and 3.30pm and will continue each Monday until October 12.

# Car flips in accident

A CAR ended up on its roof in Wordsley. Four teenagers who were travelling in the vehicle escaped serious injury after the accident on Brierley Hill Road just before 7pm on Sunday.

A 17-year-old girl suffered a cut to her forehead. Another girl, 17, and two men aged 19 had minor injuries.

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## THE BEST OF PETER RHODES



HOW will the collapse of the stock market in China affect us? According to the experts, your energy bills could get smaller. Petrol could get cheaper. Mortgage rates could stay low for longer. Funny sort of crisis.

THE master of the one-liner, Milton Jones, is telling audiences at the Edinburgh Festival: "I come from a family of failed magicians: I've got two half-sisters."

I SMILED at a feature in one of those "Your Money" supplements in which a couple, both aged 42, wanted advice on how best to save for their "gap year" treat. It is to be a round-the-world trip, with their daughter who is now aged two, when mum and dad are 60. The financial gurus duly gave their advice on stocks, shares and Isas. And not one of them raised the question every parent was surely shouting at the page: What sort of 20-year-old girl will be seen dead with her aged parents on a globe-trotting jaunt? The two-year-old moppet you know and love today will be nothing like the self-willed woman 18 years away. Spend the money now.

THE musical Les Misérables had its C4 premiere a few days ago, starring a galaxy of fine singers, and Russell Crowe. And while it is all very moving and stirring, does anyone honestly have a clue what's going on? We are told that the new king is unpopular and life is grim but there is not a single line to explain why folk were prepared to die in the 1832 June Rebellion. The conflict sprang from an unholy mix of



crop failures, cholera, workers' uprisings and political despair. What the movie lacks is a scene-setting page of text (maybe like Star Wars: "A long time ago in a galaxy far, far away. . ."). Why are Les Misérables so damn miserable? We should be told.

SEPP Blatter insists: "The institution (Fifa) is not corrupt. There is no corruption in football. There is corruption with individuals. It is the people." I am reminded of the industrialist who declared his factory was unfairly blamed for polluting a lake when the pollution was actually caused by all those dead fish.

AMID the furore over the Met Office losing its contract to supply the BBC with weather information, my vote goes to whoever can hold our attention. There is something very strange about weather forecasts, especially on the radio. No matter how hard you try to concentrate, no matter how eagerly you listen out for your own specific region, after a couple of sentences, the bulletin goes all mumbledeyumbledeeoombledewobbledoo and the next thing you hear is: "Finally, for north-west Scotland." Time after time.

**Don't miss Peter Rhodes every Monday to Friday in your Express & Star**

# Creepy 'Coseley Spider' fossil on display

AN incredible fossil, dating back 315 million years, is on show in Wolverhampton.

Nicknamed the Coseley Spider, the Eophrynus Prestvicii is on display as part of an exhibition that celebrates the region's geological history.

It was discovered at the old Parkfield Colliery in the 1800s. Experts say it shows the early

evolution of spiders and is an important international example. It features as part of the Riches Beneath Us exhibition at Bantock House, which runs until November 15.

The exhibition is the largest display of Wolverhampton's impressive geology collection in decades and features around 100 artefacts of fascinating fos-

sils, many collected from the Black Country's collieries and limestone mines.

Jon Clatworthy, director of the Lapworth Museum of Geology at the University of Birmingham, said: "It is wonderful that the Coseley Spider is going on show for the first time in Wolverhampton, not far from where it was first found more

than 100 years ago. Although it carries the nickname it is not actually a spider but rather an extinct relative of modern spiders."

The Coseley Spider is currently on loan to Wolverhampton Art Gallery from the Lapworth and is one of only two examples of Eophrynus Prestvicii ever found.



The Coseley Spider

# Heartache as bride's driver dies in tragedy

Report by Rob Gollledge

**NATALIE Baker's wedding was the happiest day of her life – made 'extra special by a special man' in a gleaming car.**

But just two months from becoming man and wife, she and husband Stan watched in horror and disbelief as the wreckage of that same pristine Daimler was amongst the debris of the Shoreham air disaster.

Mrs Baker, aged 21, felt her heart drop as she feared the worst for her charming driver Maurice Abrahams. A few hours later, he was confirmed among the 11 that died.

"We first saw a picture of the car on Facebook and immediately recognised it," she said. "We are both totally shocked. It is so terrible.

"It hits you that this was my home town and I grew up just half hour away."

Natalie, nee Bowyer, married Stan, 57, in West Sussex on June 27 – just a few miles when the ill-fated jet crashed.

She said of chauffeur Mr Abrahams: "He made our special day even more special for being there and for telling me my husband is a lucky guy and that I was a gorgeous young lady.

"He told me in the car 'live life to the full, don't ever let anything stop you'. That I will never forget. He will be terribly missed."

## Driving

The newlyweds now live in The Parade, Dudley and have been glued to the news as the tributes to Mr Abrahams poured in.

The father-of-two, 76, from Brighton, was driving his beloved Daimler to pick up bride-to-be Rebecca Sheen to drive her to her wedding in Findon when the vintage Hawker Hunter jet crashed.

Natalie, originally from Sompting in West Sussex, said: "I lived in West Sussex all my life and only just moved to Dudley. Everyone knew him by the wedding car, proms and special occasions. "He was just amazing. He made me laugh and made sure everyone else was ok and had a great time. He was a top bloke, a true gentleman. There are not many of his kind around and it is hard to put into words.

"Our thoughts go out to his family and everyone else who knows him. God knows what the it must be like for them. He was a true family man."

Mr Abrahams was an ex-paratrooper, Grenadier Guard and a former Hampshire policeman as well as a pillar of the community acting as chauffeur to scores of brides over 20 years.

Pilot Andy Hill is still in a critical condition in hospital.



Natalie Baker and the Daimler wedding car driven by tragic Maurice Abrahams



Newlyweds Natalie and Stan Baker



Emergency services at the scene in Horsham

# Shop owner faces unpaid work over illegal cigs

A SHOP owner has been told to carry out unpaid work after nearly 100 illicit packets of cigarettes and tobacco were found at his store.

Officers from Dudley Council trading standards discovered 76 packets of cigarettes and 23 packets of hand rolling tobacco – none of which had UK duty paid on them – at Russell's Hall Post Office, Dudley.

Of those, 40 packets of cigarettes and eight packets of tobacco were counterfeit.

Shop owner Mohammed Janjua stood before Dudley magistrates on August 13 and pleaded guilty to four offences including possessing for supply of counterfeit cigarettes and tobacco and being concerned in the acquisition, use or possession of criminal property for which duty had not been paid.

He was given a 12 month community order including a two month night-time curfew and 80 hours unpaid work. His personal licence to sell alcohol was suspended for four months and he must pay £1,000 costs.

Janjua's son, Kalif Coady, pleaded guilty to similar offences on June 26 and handed a eight-week jail term suspended for 12 months, with 100 hours community service and costs of £1,100.

Councillor Rachel Harris, cabinet member responsible for health, said: "We support legitimate businesses that comply with the law and have zero tolerance of any businesses dealing in illegal tobacco and will prosecute in all cases."

# Free eye tests for Belarus children

CHILDREN affected by the legacy of the Chernobyl nuclear disaster visited a Stourbridge opticians for free eye tests.

The 13 youngsters from Belarus were welcomed to Specsavers in High Street for the eye examinations and were given glasses if needed.

The visit was organised by Chernobyl Children Life Line, a charity which arranges respite trips to the UK for children who are affected by the legacy of the 1986 disaster.

Store director Jason Bridgewater said: "Unfortunately, the majority of these children do not have access to any kind of eyecare so without visits like this, their eyesight could deteriorate. Having corrective glasses can make an enormous difference to their quality of life."

# Inquest into OAP's swimming pool death

WORCESTERSHIRE Coroners' Court has adjourned an inquest into the death of Raymond Short, aged 79, of Blackberry Lane, Halesowen, who was discovered at the bottom of a swimming pool at DW Sports and Fitness Centre in Kidderminster.

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## Group left disgusted at amount of rubbish

LITTER-PICKERS say a road in Stourbridge has become a 'dumping ground' after filling 20 bags with rubbish in one evening.

Volunteers with the Tidy Stourbridge group took it on themselves to clear Mill Race Lane after they were disgusted by the amount of litter that had piled up.

Nappies and condoms were among items that had been discarded, with bottles, cans and other rubbish also prevalent.

Litter was also strewn across an alleyway leading off the road to the Penfields.

But despite all of their hard work, Dave Colley, who leads the group, predicted that members will soon have to return.

It was the fifth time in as many years that the group had focuses their efforts on Mill Race Lane, with bag after bag filled with rubbish.

Mr Colley said: "It is more to do with the night-time economy and people coming back from the town centre. It's a bit of a walk through so a lot of it gets dumped, and being so close to the ring road, whatever is there ends up down Mill Race Lane.

"There are bins but people don't bother using them."

Mr Colley, aged 42, who splits his time fighting litter louts with his job as a courier, believes there will always be plenty of work for the group to do.

He said: "If there was money in getting stuff off the street kids would be happy to pick it up themselves and make a bit of money out of it."

## Volunteers carry out litter-picking

LITTER picks have taken place in Wordsley in a crackdown against anti-social behaviour.

Volunteer wardens in the Wordsley Street Watch scheme have been out on patrol in the area. They hit the streets surrounding Wordsley Green Shopping Centre and Wordsley Park.

The street watch group was formed with support from neighbourhood officers at West Midlands Police. Ward councillor Derrick Hemingsley, chairman of the Friends of Wordsley park group, said: "Street Watch is a scheme run by the community for the community in partnership with the police.

"During our Street Watch we added a litter pick to our patrol and found the litter in our park has dropped since we introduced Street Watch."

## Charity dog show to help raise funds

AN animal charity is celebrating its third anniversary with a charity dog show near Stourbridge. Dudley's Ravens Rescue holds the annual show from 11am on Sunday during South Staffs horse show at Prestwood Drive.

# Carjacker jailed over outstanding £30



Richard Halford

THIS is the violent car-jacker who ran down a young woman in her own car – over an outstanding £30 grocery debt.

Richard Halford, from Kingswinford, was locked up for four years and 10 months for the violent robbery.

West Midlands Police Detective Constable Shelley Punshon said Halford 'had a long jail term to think about stupidity of his actions'.

The victim, aged 26, was dragged out of the £15,000 Ford Mondeo by Halford and an accomplice who had lured her to a late-night meeting over the debt.

She arrived at the rendezvous near

Crestwood School in Bromley Lane, Kingswinford, shortly after midnight on April 27, Wolverhampton Crown Court heard.

West Midlands Police say she handed over £120 to service a £150 debt. But Halford grabbed her around the neck on hearing some of the debt was still outstanding.

Halford's accomplice went through her pockets until he found the Mondeo key and the victim was man-handled out of the car. Halford and his pal sped away, hitting the 26-year-old and leaving her needing hospital treatment. She injured her leg and ankle after falling under the wheels while trying in vain to stop the

pair driving away. They later crashed into parked cars in Milking Bank, Dudley, and were found walking nearby in Limepits Lane by night shift response officers.

Halford, aged 20, from Rowen Rise, admitted driving the Mondeo but was not at the wheel when it either ran over the woman or crashed, pleaded guilty to robbery, drink driving and having no insurance. He was given four years, 10 months detention in a Young Offenders Institution and banned from driving for 12 months. Another man, aged 20, is due to appear in court next month on suspicion of being involved in the robbery.

# Lack of road investment costing business billions

**A LACK of investment in the Black Country's road network is costing businesses in the region's billions of pounds, say commerce leaders.**

Colin Leighfield, transport chief of the Black Country Chamber of Commerce, says the region 'is now being held in complete disregard'.

He expects delays to major transport projects in the West Midlands, calling them 'completely unacceptable', at a time the Government had accepted plans for a £5bn rerouting of the M25 as part of the expansion of London's Heathrow Airport.

Mr Leighfield said "We have calculated the cost of road delays across the region and it is at least £2.5 billion. It is frankly absurd that our businesses are being penalised by successive government failure to address real transport needs and to fritter vehicle excise duty in areas that are nothing to do with transport.

"We have seen figures that show that for every £1 spent on improving roads it provides £4 in economic growth and so wonder why successive governments have failed to invest."

He said due to an overspend on rail infrastructure and investment plans over the next five years projects like Midlands Connect will not be considered for another 10 years.

Midlands Connect aims to turn the Midlands into a transport hub for the whole country.

He said: "This is completely unacceptable especially at a time when the Secretary of State for Transport has accepted the Davies Commission recommendation to expand Heathrow and with it the £5 billion on rerouting the UK's busiest road, the M25.

### Engine

"We do not know if the £5 billion includes the cost of a tunnel but it represents more than six times the annual capital spend on the West Midlands public transport infrastructure."

Mr Leighfield added: "We have criticised politically driven prejudice towards the Northern strategy; it appears that the Midlands Engine is now being held in complete disregard in favour of both the North and South.

He also warned that the Calais migrant crisis risked making businesses uncompetitive.

"The cost of the delays and the inherent danger to drivers is simply not acceptable," said Mr Leighfield. "Furthermore, when drivers do report illegal immigrants in their wagons, their companies are being fined."

## Chernobyl children visit club



Children from Chernobyl spent the day as guests of Wollaston Tennis Club as part of a visit to the UK

MORE than 20 youngsters from Belarus enjoyed a day of sporting activities when they paid a visit to a tennis club.

The youngsters were in the Stourbridge area as part of a month-long visit organised through the Chernobyl Children's Lifeline charity for youngsters from the area still affected by a Soviet era nuclear accident in 1986.

One of the venues was Wollaston Tennis Club, in Prestwood Drive, Stourton, where the 24 children took part in activities under the instruction of club coach Richard Cartwright. They were also treated to food as the tennis club put on a barbecue.

Wollaston Tennis Club hosted a group for the first time in 2013 and followed this up again in 2014. Chairman John Cutler said: "It is great to have the opportunity of hosting the group of children

again. Our members, who volunteered to help on the day, enjoyed getting involved as much as the children who visited. Members who couldn't make the event helped in other ways, donating money and items.

"As previous visits to the club have been such successful days, we were keen they are keen to repeat the event again."

Chernobyl Children's Lifeline is organised locally by Ann Becke.

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Summer fete has £10,000 target

COMMUNITY support is needed to raise £10,000 at a hospice's summer fete.

Mary Stevens Hospice is holding the fete in its grounds this weekend to raise funds for patients.

It takes place on Saturday, from 11.30am in Hagley Road, Stourbridge.

Activities include a Black Country Bake Off, a best homemade fancy dress competition for children and a dog show. There will also be zorb, bouncy castles and fairground rides.

Entry is £2 for adults and £1 for children.

### Action demand on graffiti mess

A COUNCILLOR has called for a clean-up after graffiti was sprayed on fences and litter thrown near homes in Kingswinford.

Rubbish has collected around the alley near Randall Close, which people say is blighting the area.

Councillor Paul Brothwood has been contacted over the issue and has urged immediate action. He has asked Dudley Council to remove the graffiti and tidy the alley nearby.

Councillor Brothwood said: "It is a great shame that a few idle people can create such a mess."

### Crews are called to tackle kitchen fire

A HOMEOWNER suffered smoke inhalation after a blaze broke out in a first-floor kitchen.

Crews were called to a flat in Central Drive, Cosely, around 5pm on Wednesday, August 26.

A West Midlands Fire Control spokesman said a person in the flat was treated for smoke inhalation following the fire in the oven.

Windows had been left open at the front of the home to ventilate it after smoke filled the rooms.

### New deadline to secure future of Hippodrome

COUNCILLORS have set a fresh timetable to decide Dudley Hippodrome's fate.

Proposals to safeguard the theatre's future must be submitted by September 30. Interested parties will then have until October 9 to submit any further information.

A panel will look in detail at all final offers before a final decision by the end of the year. Council bosses say proposals must include a 'thorough, realistic and deliverable business plan.'

### Shops row revamp

A ROW of shops that have been derelict for decades are undergoing a revamp to bring them back into use.

Two of the three empty stores in Sandringham Place, Wordsley, which have been the target of anti-social behaviour, could even be open in time for Christmas.

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IN MY VIEW  
with Mark Andrews

# Mistress mischief of females and emails

IT turns out that adultery website Ashley Madison is not quite the hotbed of illicit encounters its users were hoping for. According to data expert AnnaLee Ne-witz, most of the female profiles were reg-istered to email addresses which ended in the name of the company. And while 20 million randy men had been fervent-ly checking their inboxes in the hope of receiving a steamy message, only 1,492 women bothered to open their inbox.

For some reason, the blokes were a bit shy about going to trading standards. It reminds me of the age-old scam about the company with a risque-sound-ing name which advertised bargain-priced 'adult toys' by mail order. The goods never came, but all customers were sent a full refund – in the form of a cheque with the company name emblazoned across the top in large letters, most of which were disposed of.

NOW I've never really understood how 'anarchic' artist Banksy has become the darling of the London luvvies. Take away all the hype and pretentious arty talk, and, well, he's just a vandal.

Anyway, his latest wheeze is a theme park in Weston-super-Mare where the security staff are trained to be rude and inefficient, where all customers are sub-jected to over-zealous body searches, and where the main attractions are a man selling balloons with the words "I am an imbecile" on them, and a children's at-traction offering payday loans.

One day the website crashed – which many punters thought was actually part of the experience – because six million people had been trying to buy tickets.

Well, as the saying goes, a fool and his money are easily parted. I just never knew there were so many of them around.

I TOOK advantage of the brief respite from the downpours to take a walk on Monday. After five miles in the misty drizzle, I slumped into a chair tired, light-headed, and gasping for a pint. So spare a thought for Penkridge window cleaner Mark Vaz, who last week broke the world record for running the most marathons in consecutive days. And still doing his window cleaning round.

In the last few days Mark has suffered from food poisoning, and has had to do several of his runs with his leg in band-age because of an injury he has picked up. He will soon be two-thirds of his way through his target of 90 marathons in 90 days in aid of pregnancy charity Tommy's and Katharine House Hospice in Stafford.

Unbelievably, some idiots have taken to so-called social media to deliver un-pleasant and personal abuses. Can I sug-gest that anybody who wishes to show their contempt for these idiots does so by sponsoring Mark £5? Because I think he has earned it.



Celebrating with Paul Carty during Hednesford's cup run



Settling into his role as Dudley College finance director



Young Andy Comyn in his Villa Park days

# Andy's new career is Comyn up trumps

An ex-pro player is proving there is life after football by carving out a new career.  
**DAVID COSGROVE reports**

**LIFE after football can be tough for many ex-professionals.**

Cocooned in the game from an early age, many footballers don't know anything other than life in the sport.

Without any extra qualifications, or life experience, it can be hard to turn to another vocation when age and injury brings careers to an end.

But Andy Comyn, the former Aston Villa and Albion defender, is an exception to the rule.

Comyn has gone on to enjoy a successful second career after stepping away from the professional game in the 1990s and has joined Dudley College as vice principal for financial strategy and control.

The 47-year-old, who also played for Plym-outh and Derby, left pro football in 1996, but went on to represent Hednesford Town in the non-league and was part of their famous run to the FA Cup fourth round.

## Bubble

He admits that while his career has panned out well since, he has felt regret at what might have been, as he left the professional game aged just 28.

Comyn, who was brought up in Stockport, joined Manchester United's youth set-up aged 16.

Even as a teenager he had his head screwed on and wanted to get an education, rather than simply enjoy life in the footballing bubble.

"I was always planning to go off to univer-sity," he said.

"Football is a fantastic career now and the money is unbelievable. At the time I was playing the money would've been slightly better than people would've paid elsewhere to a gradu-ate – but not significantly so.

"I think one reason for wanting to study at university was because around about that era



Ex-footballer Andy Comyn with the shirts he wore with pride for Villa and the Baggies

you had the likes of Seb Coe who was really successful in athletics and he was at uni in Loughborough.

"For some reason I had it in my head that I wanted to go to Loughborough, which had fantastic sporting facilities and a great sport-ing tradition.

"That was just in my head from a young age – but after all that time thinking it would be Loughborough I ended up going to Birming-ham to study physics instead."

In fact, Comyn, who plied his footballing trade as a centre half, nearly didn't have a professional career at all, after being released by United while still at university.

Nearing the end of his final year studying – and with no career mapped out – he sent hopeful letters out to a couple of clubs in the Midlands, and it paid dividends.

Comyn, who had played for Alvechurch dur-

ing his time in Birmingham, said: "I was get-ting towards the end of that year and deciding what I was going to do with myself.

"Then I decided to write off to Wolves and Villa – I don't know why only those two clubs, but that's what I did.

"I didn't hear anything back from Wolves but got a call from (Villa assistant manager) John Ward inviting me down to training.

"I couldn't go as it was right in the middle of my finals but thankfully we rearranged it."

Villa boss Graham Taylor saw Comyn play 45 minutes of a practice match and snapped him up. He made his debut against Liverpool at Villa Park and spent two years at the club – during which he played 90 minutes in a cele-brated UEFA Cup win at home to Inter Milan – before moving on to Derby and Plymouth.

While he was at the former, he successfully completed a book-keeping course at Sutton

College, to make sure he kept his future car-er options open. After a two-month spell at Albion in 1996, he faced a big decision. "At the end of that season, manager Alan Buckley of-fered me a two-year contract," he explained.

"But he made it very clear to me that I was going to be the fourth choice centre half and I told him that was no good for me.

"I was about to turn 28 and wanted to be playing regularly so I turned them down and was considering what to do."

But Comyn was approached by Hednesford Town boss John Baldwin who said he was interested. Baldwin owned two accountancy practices and said he could get the defender a job.

This offered him a chance to make the most of his book-keeping qualification, a solid career and a chance to carry on playing football to a decent level – so he felt it was the right move.

However, events at West Brom did make his question his decision to quit.

## Injured

"I ended up working full-time in Walsall and training two or three times a week, it was ideal. The only time I've really had any sense of regret was after I left West Brom.

"Obviously Buckley had said I would be the fourth choice in central defence.

"But within the first few weeks of the season at least two of the centre halves got injured and that was the time I thought 'if only'.

"If I'd still been there I would've got a chance and you don't know what might have happened."

He says he enjoyed his spell at Hednesford, starring in the club's famous 1996-97 FA Cup run – in which they lost to subsequent final-ists Middlesbrough – and turned out for Eng-land's non-league side.

Andy finally hung up his boots in 2001 after a year at Halesowen and has thrown himself into his new career – working at the likes of Grant Thornton, Deloitte and Wragge & Co.

He is looking forward to his new challenge at Dudley College. "I've loved it so far. There's passion and commitment from the staff and a desire to keep improving.

"There are brand new buildings and a lot of investment has happened and will continue to happen."

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money, although that obviously helps. Many tradespeople have struggled since last year and I honestly feel that during the good times a minority perhaps didn't focus on customer care as much as they should have done.

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area and Brian is finding that his approach is a major factor in his success. "The truth is that it's not just the personal satisfaction that I get from doing a good job but also it makes good business sense. I get a huge amount of business from friends and family of people



I've done work for, which just goes to show how much a little bit of effort is appreciated."

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# Baffled by shortage of applicants

THOSE wonderful Labour people running Dudley have appointed a temporary head honcho over children's services and reckon she's a snip at a mere 800 quid a day.

We are told this is necessary as you just can't get the staff these days no matter how many tens of thousands over the 100k you offer. The lady in question is Merlin Joseph and is probably employed to wave an industrial strength magic wand to sort out Dudley Children's Services.

Though instructed back in 2012 by Ofsted when under the purview of the

previous Tory regime to get its house in order within three to six months, these services are still in a problematic state.

Once more, Ukip's small band of councillors are performing a valuable local service delving into the cosy relationships and shortcomings which have existed between the two main parties.

What is difficult to understand is why there should be a problem in recruitment. As far as I'm concerned, I cannot understand why, for the salary being offered, there is not a queue of excellent applicants. The art of man-

agement is to have good people below you who have specialist knowledge, set out goals and ensure by reason of diligent testing and feedback that these are achieved.

The chaos in many public service situations usually stems from a failure of those at the top to adopt professionally accepted management methods. To my mind, if you have been trained and have extensive experience of management in whatever field, your abilities are transferable.

A M ETHERIDGE  
Sedgley

## Japan was responsible for own war

RE: The use of atomic bombs on Japan

Certainly the war was started in Europe because despite assurances from Germany that they would cease their annexing of other nations, they still invaded Poland to get Danzig.

No one suggested that Japan caused this conflict. Japan started its own war with its unprovoked attacking of Pearl Harbor and then quickly overran other nations before America and Britain could respond.

When the time came to recapture these territories, the Americans lost thousands of men and realised the final action involving the invasion of the Japanese mainland would result in many more men being killed.

Japan was called upon to surrender but refused to give in so the first bomb was unleashed. Again they were asked to surrender which again they rejected hence the second bomb was dropped. Eventually they did surrender.

J POSTINGS  
Stourbridge

## LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

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Letters should be brief and MUST include name, address and telephone number number. The Editor reserves the right to condense letters.

## Police can expect no support from public

OVER the last few weeks there have been some unusual headlines. For instance, it's been reported that seven West Midlands primary school pupils under 12 have been placed on a list of those at risk of radicalisation or extremism.

I sometimes wonder why mosques can't do more to stop these fanatics who appear to go at any lengths to press their misguided cause particularly if they are targeting children.

I don't think the West Midland Police will have a lot of support from the public after refusing to publish the details of 10 men wanted for serious crimes as it could affect their human rights. The odd thing is Crimewatch on BBC TV show pictures of ten criminals and all about them in the hope that somebody has information that could bring them to justice. Then we read that the WMP have sent two officers to Magaluf to check on the behaviour of British tourists, but we are told their shift finishes early on before things could start to kick off.

For a change I heard on the radio an out-of-touch chairman of a leading charity telling us Britain can afford to take thousands of refugees despite the fact that in all probability hundreds of illegals are pouring into Britain every week, and we don't appear to be able to do anything about it.

A P Cuff, Stourbridge

## Sympathy for PoWs

G FANTHOM, Chronicle, August 27, is right, the Japanese did not start the war in Europe. What they did was an unprovoked attack on the US Naval base Pearl Harbor. Perhaps America should not have dropped the bombs but shortly after the war in Japan ended.

If you have any sympathy give it to the men taken PoW by the Japanese who were beaten and starved.

D E WALKER  
Dudley

## On the way to a full house

LOWER Gornal, Hagley, Old Hill; an eclectic mix of the West Midlands, all with one thing in common - threatened closure of their Barclays bank branch.

Identical 'reasons' are given for the closures, which cannot possibly be correct. 'Let them eat the cake' - of closures, inconvenience and the wishes of local opinion. Barclays is well on the way to a full house of excuses.

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## Dumped rubbish bagged in tidy-up



The clean-up team ready to get to work on removing the mess left behind by fly-tippers

TYRES, mattresses, sofas, fridges – the shocking mountain of rubbish dumped in a Black Country street by thoughtless fly-tippers.

A community group filled six truck-loads of trash in just two hours when they tackled the rubbish mound off Jackson Street, Lye.

Some 15 members of Tidy Stourbridge worked with the council to clear three sofas, more than 20 tyres, roofing materials, stacks of wood, plastic tubs and general waste. There was even a drinks vending machine left at the site between High Street and the Lye by-pass.

Roger Kendrick, of Tidy Stourbridge, said the smell from the rubbish was 'shocking' and described it as one of the worst examples of fly-tipping he had ever seen.

He added that Jackson Street had become a hotspot for fly-tippers.

"If people are inclined to fly-tip this is probably the best spot in the whole borough," he said.

"We all said that we'd not seen anything as bad as this load of rubbish before and most of it must have been fly-tipping."

"We picked up about 80 bags of rubbish as the team from Tidy Stourbridge. That is without including what was collected by the council's staff."

Problems at the site were first spotted by Tidy Stourbridge members around three months ago but since then more rubbish had been left.

The clean-up was carried out as a joint operation between the community group and Dudley Council's Street Cleaning Department

Deputy Mayor Councillor Mohammed Hanif, Councillor Christine Perks and the council's chief executive, Sarah Norman, helped clear the area.

Mr Kendrick, added: "This was a really good exercise. When we first got there the rubbish was a real mountain."

"Dave Wesson from the council and Sarah Norman both said they had never seen anything like it."



The mountain of dumped rubbish



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# Second chamber creaking at seams

**DANIEL WAINWRIGHT**  
Political Editor

THEY called them the 'dis-solution honours'. But to me they're the 'disillusioned honours' - as that's how I'm feeling about this new crop of peers of the realm.

There are some people who have sneered at the inclusion of underwear tycoon Michelle Mone in the list of new Tory peers - but she's one of the few who can point to the merits of her business acumen, rather than her service to her party.

Certain sections of the press have labelled the Scot one of the 'brassy' - their word, not mine - women David Cameron is enthralled by.

Ms Mone, however, is a rarity in a list dominated by people whose record with their party and politics is being rewarded as much as their service to their country or community.

## Forlorn

The House of Lords is past its best. Creaking at the seams it is the second largest legislative chamber in the world outside of China, a country with a population of almost 1.4 billion.

The Liberal Democrats were very keen on making it elected. But that has not stopped them adding to the red benches with 11 of their own nominees - three more than the entirety of the sad and forlorn bunch of MPs they were left with after May.

For while the Liberal Democrats were very keen indeed on serving the



**Lorely Burt Lib Dem Baroness**

will of the electorate, the electorate was not all that keen on them after five years of coalition.

David Cameron, meanwhile, is likely to press ahead with moves to cut the number of MPs, who are elected by the people, but not making much more than noises about the number of Lords, who are not.

The Prime Minister's own cynicism has dominated the debate on this over the past couple of days but my personal favourite addition to the list is from Labour.

Their modest eight peers are almost all former MPs, save for Spencer Livermore. This is the strategy and communications professional who became Labour's campaign director for the General Election.

Hmmn. Remind me how that turned out again? Still, as a new life



**Soon-to-be Baroness Mone**

peer Lord Livermore will have to fight for his seat, er, nevertheless, which must be rather nice.

As for the West Midlands, the only new peer from these parts is the Liberal Democrat Lorely Burt, turfed out of her Solihull seat in favour of a Conservative MP in May.

Sedgley-born Baroness Burt will, we must hope, bring a bit of Black Country common sense to a house now welcoming an intake of donors, advisers, strategists and other party political types.

Parliament will be at its best when it reflects the country it represents, not when its second chamber is used as a reward for political loyalty.

And if all the parties are not careful, respect for and trust in it will sink so low, not even one of Michelle Mone's bras could lift them.

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# Start date for work to move memorial

CAMPAIGNERS are breathing a sigh of relief after work to relocate a war memorial in the Black Country was given the go-ahead to begin next week.

Residents and councillors have been working to get the cenotaph outside Mount Tabor Church, in Sedgley Road West, Woodsetton, moved and feared that it would not be re-located in time for Remembrance Day.

They hoped the monument would be installed at its new home, a larger patch of land further up the road, by early November.

But last week, a councillor involved in the campaign said he was concerned it was taking longer than expected for Dudley Council to complete paperwork to adopt the memorial.

However, Councillor Keiran Casey this week said this had been finalised and contractors given the go ahead to start the work.

The work has been programmed by the council and is set to begin on Monday, meaning the cenotaph should be in place for Remembrance Day services this year.

Councillor Casey said the

by Lee Watton

council had to adopt the memorial so it could be properly cleaned and repaired.

"Dudley Council has managed to get the paperwork done and contractors can now start the work," he said. "It should be started on Monday which is absolutely fantastic news."

"We were hoping the work would begin in September and it is now on course for that."

Around £35,000 has been raised to cover the costs of the project.

Residents called for the memorial to be moved as the church is no longer used and the monument located too close to the road for services to be held there. Because it is so near to the road, rubbish has also built up at the base of the memorial.

# Two family firms are joining forces



David Johnson and son Ben, owners of Rex Johnson & Sons, with Chris Aston and father Phil, owners of Aston's. A FAMILY-RUN jewellers set to close its Dudley branch after 42 years is to keep a presence in the town after joining forces with another business.

Bosses at Rex Johnson and Sons last month announced it would cease trading in the town. It will close its store on September 5.

The store moved to the Churchill Shopping Centre last year after being based in Birdcage Walk for 41 years.

But the firm will still have a presence in the town after being offered a room at Aston's Auctioneers and Valuers, in Tower Street.

The two firms will offer a weekly service, believed to be unique in the UK.

Free valuation events will be held every Wednesday where people will have the option to put their items into a specialist auction.

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The first event is due to take place on September 16.

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# Criticism over care as children neglected

**SOCIAL** workers at Dudley Council have been criticised after three children were 'chronically neglected' while under their care.

The children, who were dirty, suffered bruises and burns and had head lice and cold sores, were known to the council after their mother was cautioned for neglect.

But, two years on, concerned teachers reported the matter directly to police after becoming increasingly worried about the condition of the under-sevens. The problems had persisted despite teachers flagging up the issues with social workers.

After the police were called, a full investigation was launched. The mother, who lives in Willenhall, was given a three-year community order with supervision by the probation service at Wolverhampton Crown Court. She had admitted three cases of child cruelty by way of neglect during September and October last year. She had been cautioned in October 2012.

Mr Paul Spratt, prosecuting, said: "This was chronic neglect. The woman was incapable of dealing with them in a proper manner when it came to bathing, clothing and caring for them."

The children are now in foster care. Their mother, who cannot be named, is allowed supervised contact. Their father played no part in their upbringing.

Judge Martin Walsh said: "What is troubling is that the continued neglect occurred at a time when the children were in the care of the local authority. The offences arose when the local authority were responsible."

Miss Nicole Steers, defending, said: "This is not a case of intentional harm or neglect but of incompetence and ignorance."

Anthea Jones, for Dudley Council, said: "The children concerned were placed under a Care at Home order by the courts in August 2012. They were returned to their mother in October 2012 and the local authority continued to support the family under the Care at Home order until October 2014 when concerns were raised and we acted to remove the children."

## Tough trek aids hospital



**Simon Kinge, Legal & General, Lee Judson, The Tipton, Katie West, children's hospital, Matt Taylor and Julie Belcher, The Tipton**

BUILDING Society staff had a mountain to climb to raise funds for Birmingham Children's Hospital.

The team from The Tipton & Cosely Building Society, trekked up Mount Snowdon and collected more than £2,300, surpassing their target of £500.

Lee Judson, general manager sales and marketing at The Tipton, along with society colleagues Sally Coombes, Julie Belcher, Matthew Taylor and Simon Kinge, financial consultancy manager from Legal & General, braved heavy rain to complete The Tipton Snowdon Chal-

lenge in three hours. Katie West, regional fundraiser at Birmingham Children's Hospital Charity, said: "We want to say a huge thank you to the team at The Tipton for taking on Mount Snowdon for our hospital."

"Their hard work allowed them to finish in record time and their fantastic fundraising effort has raised a significant amount of money that will go a long way to helping our children and families."

Lee added: "It was really tough, but made that little bit easier knowing that we were raising cash for such a worthy cause."

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## Teenager hurt in bag snatch

A TEENAGER was hurt in a knife-point robbery in Kinver. The 18-year-old from Stourbridge, was approached by a gang at around 3.25pm on August 21 in a wooded area near Marsh playing fields at Kinver Community Centre.

He was attacked after refusing to hand over his bag containing two mobile phones – a Sony Experia and an Apple iPhone. He suffered facial injuries and cuts to his neck and hand. The main suspect is described as Asian, around 17 to 18, 6ft tall and of skinny build. He had short black hair and wore a white polo T-shirt and blue jeans.

He was accompanied by approximately seven other males aged between 17 and 18. One was white with curly ginger hair and a ‘chubby’ build. Call DC Matt Gould of Staffordshire Police on 101.

# Grounds for optimism over football pitch drainage repairs

**THOUSANDS of pounds have been spent repairing drainage at a community football pitch, allowing youngsters to play there this season.**

Bosses at the Baggeridge Social Welfare Centre in Gornal gratefully received turf taken from Molineux to create the under-10s pitch around 18 months ago. The facility replaced derelict tennis courts at the centre in The Straits.

But in a crushing blow to those who were playing at the pitch it quickly became waterlogged in

September last year. Club trustee, Gornal Councillor Dave Branwood, said: “The pitch was only played on a couple of times last season when we realised it was not playable.

“It was around September when one of the corners got completely waterlogged. The water was running down the slope and making it really boggy. The teams were unable to play on it for the rest of the season.”

Councillor Branwood said club bosses were desperate to have the pitch in functional condition ready for the start of this season. And in order to achieve that ambition they splashed out

£7,400 to repair the damaged drainage which had caused the flooding. There had previously been some drainage in place but the Gornal councillor believes it had been cracked in the process of laying the turf taken Wolverhampton Wanderers ground.

The club has now requested £3,700 funding from Dudley Council to help pay for the costs of installing the new system.

Councillor Branwood added: “We have now also got dug-outs which have been donated from the old Wolves training ground so it is really becoming a high class facility.”

## Plea over jab to uni freshers

UNIVERSITY freshers are being urged to book in for a meningitis vaccine before heading off to study.

First year university students are particularly susceptible to meningococcal disease. Health bosses at Dudley Council are inviting those aged 19 to 24 and anyone born between September 1, 1996, and August 31, 1997, to book in for the jab.

Councillor Rachel Harris, for health, said: “This is an exciting time for students heading off to university, but we’d like them to make getting this vaccination part of their preparation plans.

“Even if you have recently received the Men C booster vaccine, it’s still important to get this new vaccine as it protects against A, W and Y strains as well.”

## More fun in the great outdoors for youngsters



Rachel Cutting, Ethan Hamblett, Holly Marriott, Ria Sood and Ian Romano

PUPILS in Halesowen School are set to have even more fun at break time thanks to a bigger playground, grass football pitch and a forest area.

Olive Hill Primary, in Springfield Road, has had the new play facilities as part of a package of education and sports improvements for the school.

Head teacher Rachel Cutting said: “The children were very excited to have a larger playground last year and to see the development of the new school field and forest area this year. The work has provided the children with more space to play and learn outdoors.”

Regeneration specialists St Modwen has delivered the play facilities as part of its £2 million project to create new homes and provide improved facilities in the Coombs Wood area.

Ian Romano, senior development surveyor at St Modwen, added: “We hope these outstanding facilities will improve the quality of play, teaching and learning at the school for both current and future pupils.”

St Modwen has also made extensive biodiversity improvements to the Green Wedge, resulting in a total of 12 acres of land being reinstated for public access.

In 2013, it completed the construction and redevelopment of Coombs Wood Sports and Social Club, securing the future of Coombs Wood Cricket Club.

It is hoped that the schools forest area will also attract wildlife, allowing children to get involved with nature studies.

### Education

Councillor Ian Cooper, cabinet member for Children’s Services, added: “Learning through play is a very important part of primary education, and children especially benefit from playing outdoors in the fresh air so these new facilities are very welcome.”

St Modwen operates across the full spectrum of the property industry from a network of seven regional offices, a residential business and through joint ventures with public sector and industry leading partners.

## A new lease of life for derelict building

A BUILDING in Halesowen that has been derelict for years has been taken over by a community.

The site in Wall Well, near the Huntingtree pub, was used as a meeting place for war veterans in years gone by but has been vacant for around a decade.

Seeing an opportunity to create a community hub when the building was put up for sale, the Hasbury Community Committee stepped in.

The group applied to buy the building from Dudley Council under the Community Asset Transfer scheme with the deal now complete. Play groups, youth clubs and other local organisations will be invited to hire the site.

Group member Bryan Kelsey said: “It was for sale and local people didn’t want it to be sold for housing or offices. The group got together and offered to buy it off the council. It’s taken about three years to do it.

“It was a sons of rest where men would while away the hours, meet friends and sit and play dominoes. But it fell into disuse and was boarded up.”

Mr Kelsey, of Woodcross, Wolverhampton, used to run a youth club in Halesowen and said the group was hoping to raise enough funds to revamp the building. The group has launched a summer scheme from the site, where free trips will be offered to the likes of Dudley Zoo and the Black Country Museum.

## Launch of walk route

A NEW circular walking route has been launched at a beautiful spot near Halesowen.

The 2.25 mile path in Romsley can be followed as part of the Walk Worcester-shire series of short, easy to follow waymarked routes. They encourage local people to use their network of public rights of way.

The Romsley Penny Field walk starts at the Swallows Nest pub in Romsley village. The parish council launched the walk with tea and cakes in the church hall. Amanda Hill, countryside access volunteers officer, said: “The 2.25 mile circular was enjoyed by the 65 participants on the walk launch.”

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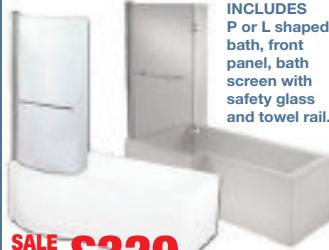


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## FOCUS ON KINGSWINFORD & WALL HEATH

# Restaurant work uncovers history of former nightspot

ONCE a popular nightspot known for attracting some of the best known names in the world of entertainment, the Kingfisher Club in Wall Heath, is set to become a Hickory's Smokehouse Restaurant.

And, as transformation work takes place, more of the venue's history has been unearthed.  
Piles of debris and decor have formed outside the Kidderminster Road venue as workers set about clearing the building ahead of it becoming the restaurant chain's first West Midlands outlet. It will create 60 jobs.

Ornate features have been uncovered by workers, while staff were delighted to discover the venue's cellar was once home to a secret casino for the club's discerning 1970s customers.

As years of decorations and fittings were stripped back the new owners found an archway near the main entrance.

The impressive structure has now been incorporated to the design of Hickory's so it retains original touches to add to the character.

Hickory's spokesman Jennie Grimes said work remained on track to open in November.

She added: "It's so interesting to hear everyone's memories of time spent in The Kingfisher. We have even learnt that the cellar was once a secret casino back in the 1970s - this story was backed up by the vault door and the 70s style wallpaper we found down there."

The pub is being asked to email any suggestions they have for the



A Kingfisher sign at the old club restaurant to jennie.grimes@hickorys.co.uk

The venue was popular at its height with acts and hosted an early line-up of The Beatles in the 1960s.

As a cabaret venue it attracted Bob Monkhouse, Frank Carson and Bernard Manning, while other acts to grace the stage through the years have included The Supremes, Gerry and Pacemakers and The Drifters.



Marketing manager Jennie Grimes during work to turn the Kingfisher into a Hickory's Smokehouse

## Care home criticised in CQC report

THE Care Quality Commission has criticised the safety of a Kingswinford care home.

It found that residents' medical conditions were not treated properly at Oaklands Care Home, in Wartell Bank and said the home did not act on recommendations made in an earlier inspection.

The CQC downgraded its safety rating from Requires Improvement to Inadequate.

Inspectors looked at nine medicine administration records and found 'people's medical conditions were not being treated appropriately by the use of their medicines'.

## Service told to improve

A CARE home has been told it must improve after its service was deemed at times unsafe.

Inspectors found systems in place for checking medicines at Highfield Residential Home, Kingswinford, were not robust.

In its report, the Care Quality Commission (CQC), raises concerns about the ability of staff to identify risks and take preventative measures to reduce hazards including falls.

The independent regulator of health and social care in England, concluded the home required improvement.

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# Singer Gary hopes new album will really fly

A folk and blues musician from Tipton is hoping his new album is going to fly away from his launch gig in the Black Country.

Gary O'Dea released his latest collection of songs on Fly on August 28 and will be launching it at a special concert at Katie Fitzgerald's Pub, Envile Street, Stourbridge on Sunday September 6.

The concert starts at 5pm and entry is £5.

O'Dea is well known on the music circuit and has played at venues in the UK and the US including Civic Hall, Wolverhampton, Birmingham Arts Festival, Glastonbury and Greenwich Village in New York.

Later in the month on September 11 he will be playing songs from his album at the Blue Piano bar Harborne Road, Edgbaston. The gig starts at 6.30pm.

The album includes a wide range of styles from folk to bhangra and funk to Cajun and even includes local singing group The Birmingham Clarion Singers Socialist Choir.

## Daredevils

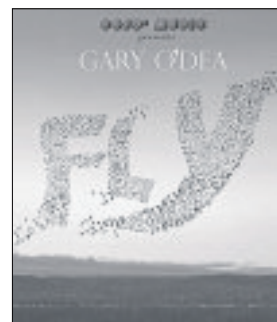
Fly was co-produced by Eddy Morton at his Stourbridge studios. Morton is a founder member of the Bushbury Mountain Daredevils, owner of Katie Fitzgerald's and has recently released his own new album Rainbow Man.

"When it comes to music production Eddy is just top dollar," said O'Dea. "It was a little frustrating, but in a good way, because being in the recording studio was so good I wanted to get in there every day, but Eddy is just so busy with running his pub, his recording studio and producing a new album for Sunjay Brayne."

At the end of 2008 O'Dea took a sabbatical and was off the circuit for nearly three years before getting back



Tipton singer Gary O'Dea



Fly the new album from Gary O'Dea



Singer/songwriter O'Dea in action at Birmingham Arts Festival

into the fray and releasing Looking Forward By Thinking Back in 2012.

O'Dea has been gigging consistently ever since and last year began work on putting together this latest album.

"It's the best thing I have done. I started it a couple of times before but stopped because it wasn't coming together properly."

"I am glad it didn't happen before

though because I don't think it would have turned out as good then as it has now. I am chuffed to bits how the album has turned out," added O'Dea. "The title of the album is a message to people to Fly whenever you can because life can knock you back." To order copiers for more information visit [www.gojo-music.co.uk](http://www.gojo-music.co.uk)

Danny Farragher

## ADVERTISEMENT

# No fixative, no surgery and the potential to fix denture stabilisation problems



Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS (Eng) with dentist Dr Polly Mineva, and right, technicians working on suction technology dentures

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"The patient was very happy with the outcome," adds Steve.

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biggest number of inquiries at the Denture Clinic in North Street, Dudley.

Principal Steven Burchell Dip CDT RCS(Eng) GDC 108353, who heads the team at his multi-disciplined practice says: "We have always endeavoured to be on the very cusp of clinical development and this device is another useful option in our commitment to try to deliver results greater than patient expectations."

Historically, lower dentures can present stability problems as the jawbone erodes with age. With traditional dentures this can cause lower teeth to move and result in painful friction problems on gums.

The suction device can be mounted in upper or lower dentures and due to its efficiency the size of the acrylic 'plate' can sometimes be reduced, improving speech and taste.



"I need to stress, however, the option is not suitable for all, but a single, free initial consultation would determine whether it could be the way forward. We never sell solutions here, but provide honest, comprehensive, clinical appraisals that help patients make informed choices," says Steven.

To achieve an harmonious fit, Denture Clinic prescriptions are 'set' using a Biofunctional Prosthetics System (BPS) which helps accurately replicate natural teeth anatomy during the production process.

"The fit is stunningly accurate," he adds.

Typically, denture patients will be assigned more than three-and-a-half hours of surgery time in achieving the best possible outcome.

## Scanner

The Denture Clinic operates hand-in-glove with Steven's North Street Dental & Implant Clinic operation.

"Having everything under one roof - denture provision, general dentistry and dental implant provision - gives us a huge set of solutions and a deep pool of clinical skill from which we can draw."

"With a 3-D scanner, modern and air conditioned surgeries and a creative team, I believe we are strongly placed to tackle most problems," says Steven.

Steven, whose clinics attracts patients from as far as Portugal, Spain, the Isle of Skye and the Isle of Anglesey, adds: "Implant dentistry is the ultimate, long-term solution for denture stability problems, but it is not suitable for everyone, neither is it all patients' first preference."

"The beauty of the suction technology is that it has the potential to deliver in the right patient excellent retainer qualities without the complex clinical procedures required for implant work."

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Councillor Ahmed at the Duncan Edwards plaque



Plaque centres on the Finch family halfpenny



A Time Trail plaque about Dudley Castle



Dudley rock maker Teddy Gray poses in his van



Football legend, Busby Babe Duncan Edwards

# Charting town's history in commemorative trail

**HISTORIC** events from Dudley's history are being set in stone across the town.

A bomb explosion during the Second World War and the unveiling of a statue dedicated to footballing hero Duncan Edwards are among those being commemorated.

Landmarks such as the Teddy Gray's sweet shop and Dudley Castle as well as famous people such as world spring jumping champion Joe Darby and film director James Whale have also been highlighted as part of a new town trail.

More than 30 plaques are being dotted around the Market Place and Castle Street leading to Coronation Gardens.

Each 24-inch square plaque has been cast in bronze and features the date with the text, pictorial borders

## MEMORY LANE

By Heather Large

and a symbol of a Trilobite, the prehistoric fossil known as the Dudley Bug discovered at Wren's Nest Nature Reserve.

The collection of 33 stones have been designed by borough artist Steve Field and some also feature QR codes engraved into the bronze - which will allow instant download information in the future from mobile phone apps.

The Time Trail plaques have been installed as part of the £6.7 million revamp of Dudley Market.

A collection of ornate bronze plaques, highlighting the borough's important events, buildings and people, is currently being installed in Market Place and Castle Street.

This 'time trail' will also continue into Coronation Gardens as part of the £1.1 million revamp of that area.

The selection of 33 plaques have been designed by borough artist Steve Field.

Councillor Khurshid Ahmed, cabinet member for planning and economic development, said: "These plaques are an important part of the regeneration of Dudley and can be used by visitors to the borough to get a flavour of our heritage."

"They will also be able to be used by schools and anyone interested in finding out more about our important history."

Events dedicated to include the siege of Dudley Castle in 1646, a bomb explosion in 1940 opposite St. Thomas's Church and the Green Man pub which was reputedly haunted.

The plaque honouring footballer Edwards, one of Manchester United's so-called Busby Babes, who also played for England, has been placed behind the statue in Dudley High Street, installed in 1999. Work to install the rest of the plaques will take place in the coming weeks.



Teddy Gray's shop in Wolverhampton Street in the 30s

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# Choir tunes up for concert fundraiser

A POPULAR choir will be raising the roof at Dudley Town Hall when they stage a concert to raise cash for two charities.

Penn Singers will host Voices for Hospices on October 10.

They will be joined for the evening by tenor Russell Painter and full 36-piece group the Jackfield Band.

Doug Parker will be comper for the evening's entertainment.

All proceeds from the concert will be split between Stourbridge's Mary Stevens Hospice and Wolverhampton's Compton Hospice.

Mary Stevens Hospice spokesman Lucy Baylis said the charity was grateful for the choir's support of the choir.

"This promises to be a wonderful event and will feature a full band and tenor," she said.

"The money raised from the concert will go towards our running costs helping to ensure our work can continue.

"It is wonderful the choir has chosen to support us in this way."

Guest Mr Painter has joined the singers for a number of previous concerts. From Kidderminster, he started singing in St George's Church choir.

He has made his mark as a free-

lance singer around the country and has performed in many operas and venues, including Covent Garden.

The choir is 70-member mixed voice choir which performs a wide variety of music ranging from classic to popular. It also performs a selection of church music and songs from the shows.

Members of the choir stage five major concerts a year, mainly at the Penn United Reformed Church.

Over the 2014/15 period, the choir presented £1,500 to Compton Hospice from a concert staged in October 2014.

## Grateful

The group also donated in the region of £1,800 from other concerts held over the period which was shared out between Sedgley's Beacon Centre for the Blind, Penn United Reformed Church and the Cure Leukaemia charity.

Members of the group said they were grateful for the support for their shows and hoped the next concert in Dudley would also be successful.

The show will begin at 7.30pm. Tickets are £12 and are available from choir members or by calling 01902 652992.



Brian Jeavons, Charlotte Lilley, Gloria Stocken, Simon Cater, Lucy Baylis and Bob Stocken

# Pupils being urged to back STEM sell radio competition

SECONDARY school pupils in Dudley are encouraged to enter a competition aimed at inspiring young people to take up Science, Technology, Engineering and Maths (STEM) subjects.

Youngsters aged 11 to 16 from schools across the borough are being invited to write, produce, record and submit a 60-second radio commercial all about STEM subjects.

The winning team's entry will have its advert professionally produced by broadcasting company UTV Media. It will then feature on E.ON's social media channels, including YouTube and Facebook.

Billie-Jean Poole, senior community relations executive at E.ON, said: "As the new school term begins we'd like to remind pupils from secondary schools across Dudley to help us spread the word about how important STEM subjects are and create their 60-second radio ad."

"We're keen for any creative local pupils to get recording and can't wait to hear their entries."

"We hope that by running this competition, we'll engage pupils in a fun way and they'll help inspire others to get involved in these subjects and enjoy the possibilities they can bring, both at school and within their future careers."

The competition is open for applications until 5pm on Friday, September 25.

Interested teachers should visit [ucreateproject.com](http://ucreateproject.com) or call 01925 251 876 for more details.

To register their school, visit [ucreateproject.com/sign-up-to-ucreate/](http://ucreateproject.com/sign-up-to-ucreate/)

# Misery is caused by 'unwelcome' roadworks

ROADWORKS lasting almost seven weeks are expected to cause traffic chaos on main routes through Cradley Heath.

National Grid is carrying out what it describes as 'essential' maintenance to gas mains on St Anne's Road.

But the works, which are due to continue until October 10, have been described as 'unwelcome' by ward councillor John Tipper.

He said the works would have an impact on shoppers visiting Cradley Heath high street.

He added concerned traders had already asked him if they could get compensation from National Grid about the works before they were given the go-ahead.

He said: "I suppose National Grid wouldn't be doing this unless it was necessary, but there hasn't been a great deal of negotiation with local representatives."

"We've worked hard to make our high street a more viable proposition so this is a shame. It would be helpful if there was more dialogue in future."

Stephen Murray from National Grid said: "We know that some of the essential work National Grid has to carry out to replace the gas mains creates disruption and inconvenience, but we are always looking for ways to minimise these problems."

"In this situation we ask motorists and shoppers to bear with us while we carry out this essential work which is necessary to make sure the gas network in this area stays safe and reliable."

The new works are the latest batch of roadworks which have been running since July.

Temporary multi-way traffic lights have been installed on St Anne's Road, which leads off High Street.

Rajesh Sethi, manager of the Ransons discount store, said: "The street has already been affected and trade has gone down at least 15 to 20 per cent. Passing trade and parking have been affected

# Plots for disabled

A DISABLED area has been added to an allotments plot in Stourport.

The new facilities at Areley King Allotments include wheelchair-accessible raised beds surrounded by concrete paths and a seating area.

Mayor of Stourport Cliff Brewer was on hand to officially open the disabled area and toilets.

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## Reborn to boogie at the Robin 2

**T** Rextasy, Robin 2, Bilston WHAM glam thank you man.... Marc Bolan's spangled brand of 1970s pop was reborn to boogie in Bilston by one of the venue's favourite tribute acts on Saturday night.

T Rextasy, fronted by Bolan clone Danielz, rocked the Robin with a two-hour set that pleased both casual and die-hard fans of the corkscrew-haired glam rock star who died in a car crash 38 years ago this month.

Kicking off with Raw Ramp, the four-piece band got the crowd grooving with Metal Guru and 20th Century Boy. An acoustic set featured Cosmic Dancer (the song which opened the Billy Elliot movie), Spaceball Ricochet and Bolan's take on Stand By Me, in tribute to Ben E King.

As a treat for the dedicated fans, King of the Rumbling Spires (from when Bolan's band were still a bunch of hippies called Tyranosaurus Rex) got a rare airing, as did Dreamy Lady and Life's A Gas, the latter dedicated to Cilla Black.

After a short break, Danielz returned clad in a glittering jacket draped with a feather boa and it was boogie all the way with such favourites as Telegram Sam, Children of the Revolution, that other Billy Elliot highlight I Love To Boogie, Ride A White Swan, Solid Gold Easy Action and an epic version of Get It On.

T Rextasy will be back at the Robin on New Year's Eve to confuse Old Father Time by partying like it's still the 1970s. Long may they Truck On. **LB**



The Stereophonics are back with their ninth album and a Birmingham concert

## Kelly's eye on selecting best songs for Village

### MUSIC

**F**RESH from a headline set at the V Festival, Welsh rockers Stereophonics have announced a ten date UK arena tour including Birmingham Genting Arena on Friday, December 11.

The quartet, who sold out 16 arena shows on their Graffiti On The Train UK tour in 2013, will be releasing their eagerly anticipated ninth studio album Keep The Village Alive on September 11.

The new album features the singles C'est La Vie and I Wanna Get Lost With You. The latter has a promotional video directed by the band's singer/songwriter Kelly Jones.

Over an 18-month period, Jones wrote 30 songs, using only 10 for Graffiti On The Train, which went on to become a platinum seller.

"We had a lot of good songs left over, so

we whittled that back to five and added five new songs," said the singer/guitarist.

"Some of the songs were written for Graffiti. The first single, C'est La Vie, was ready for Graffiti, for instance, but it didn't fit, so we held that back and used it now.

"It's nice when you're in a position to look at which songs work best together.

"It's a bit like being a football manager. You have a load of good players and pick the ones you want to put on the field."

For the latest information see the [www.stereophonics.com](http://www.stereophonics.com) website.



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French star Sylvie's  
farewell performance  
Page 23



**Into the Sunset**  
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## Sir Simon Rattle



**Tuesday, 7.30pm**  
**Symphony Hall, B'ham**

Sir Simon Rattle returns to the hall he was so instrumental in the creation of, with one of the world's greatest orchestras, three world-class soloists, and a massed choir.  
 Visit [www.thsh.co.uk](http://www.thsh.co.uk)

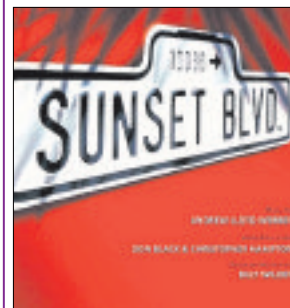
## Greg Russell & Ciaran Algar



**Monday, 8pm**  
**Stafford Gatehouse**

Two-time BBC Folk Award winners Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar met in 2011 and released their first album in 2012. They are one of the most sought after young acts on the folk scene.  
[staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk](http://staffordgatehousetheatre.co.uk)

## Sunset Boulevard



**Tues - September 12**  
**The Grand, W'ton**

Sunset Boulevard makes a long-awaited return to the stage this Autumn, a first for the Wolverhampton Grand Theatre. The show weaves a magnificent tale.  
 Visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

## Philip Solomon



**Tuesday, 7pm**  
**Robin 2, Bilston**

Philip Solomon has been acknowledged by many as one of the best psychic mediums in the world. On the evening he will be demonstrating his talents.  
 Visit [www.the-robin.co.uk](http://www.the-robin.co.uk)

## POP & ROCK

**Angelic Upstarts**  
 Fri at 7.30pm  
 £13.20  
 Slade Rooms,  
 Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ.  
 Call 0870 320 7000

**Regale**  
 Sat at 7pm  
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 Wolverhampton, WV1 1RQ  
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 Sat at 7pm  
 £10/£12  
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**Rock of Ages Experiences**  
 Sun at 7.30pm  
 Free  
 Robin 2, Bilston,  
 WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**The Music of John Martyn**  
 Wed at 7pm  
 £12.50/£14  
 Robin 2, Bilston,  
 WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Duran Duran Tribute + Spandau Ballet Tribute**  
 Thur at 7pm  
 £8/£10  
 Robin 2, Bilston,  
 WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Antarctic Monkeys: Arctic Monkeys Tribute**  
 Fri at 12am, £7 - £11  
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
 Kings Norton, Birmingham,  
 B30 3DZ.  
 Call 0121 246 2273

**Waster**  
 Wed at 7pm - 11pm, £6  
 The Rainbow, Digbeth,  
 Birmingham, B12 0LD.  
 Call 0121 753 1818

**The Catapult Club**  
 Fri at 6pm - 10pm,  
 O2 Academy Birmingham,  
 B1 1DB.  
 Call 0121 622 8250

**Paul Smith & The Intimations**  
 Mon at 7pm, £12  
 The Institute, Digbeth,  
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**John Rossall & Harvey Ellison**  
 Sat at 7pm, £8  
 The RoadHouse Birmingham,  
 Kings Norton, Birmingham,  
 B30 3DZ.  
 Call 0121 246 2273

**Abba Reunion: Abba Tribute**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £20.50  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**Jurassic 5**  
 Tue at 7pm, £25  
 The Institute, Digbeth,  
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**Mac DeMarco**  
 Thu at 7pm - 11pm, £15  
 The Institute, Digbeth,  
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**The Official Receivers**  
 Sat at 8pm, £12  
 Artrix, Bromsgrove, B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

**The Mersey Beatles: The Beatles Tribute**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £16.50  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,  
 B98 8AE.  
 Call 01527 65203

**Autobahn**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, £6  
 The Sunflower Lounge,  
 Birmingham, B5 4EG.  
 Call 0121 632 6756

**Outfit**  
 Thu at 8pm, £8  
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
 Call 0844 870 0000

**Only Shadows**  
 Sat at 7pm, £6  
 The Rainbow, Digbeth,  
 Birmingham, B12 0LD.  
 Call 0121 753 1818

**Life In Film**  
 Wed at 7pm, £8  
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
 Birmingham, B14 7JZ.  
 Call 0844 870 0000

## CLASSICAL & OTHER MUSIC

**Sir Simon Rattle Conducts The Dream Of Gerontius**  
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm,  
 £9.50 - £90  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham,  
 B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**The Burley-Modern Duo - Classical Guitar**  
 Sun at 7.30pm - 10.30pm, £5  
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's  
 Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.  
 Call 0121 443 4725

**Oh, What A Night**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £15.50  
 Palace Theatre, Redditch,  
 B98 8AE.  
 Call 01527 65203

**The Barron Knights**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, £18.50  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR.  
 Call 01543 412121

**163rd British Open Brass Band Championship**  
 Sat at 10am - 7pm, £12 - £23  
 Symphony Hall, Birmingham, B1  
 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Brass Band Gala Concert**  
 Sun at 2.30pm  
 £10 - £21  
 Symphony Hall  
 Birmingham, B1 2EA.  
 Call 0121 780 3333

**And Finally... Big Band**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, £21  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call  
 01543 412121

## JAZZ & SOUL

**Jazz In The Courtyard**  
 Sun at 4.30pm, Free  
 Light House, Wolverhampton,  
 WV1 1HT. Call 01902 716055

**Lee Fields & The Expressions**  
 Tue at 7pm, £15  
 The Institute, Digbeth,  
 Birmingham, B5 6DY.  
 Call 0121 643 0428

**The Jive Aces**  
 Fri at 8pm, £15  
 Artrix, Slideslow Bromsgrove,  
 B61 1PQ.  
 Call 01527 577330

## FOLK & ACOUSTIC

**Moseley Folk Festival**  
 Fri at 1pm - 10.30pm, Sat at  
 11am - 10.30pm, Sun at 11am -  
 10.30pm, £39 - £89  
 Moseley Park and Pool,  
 Birmingham, B13 8DD.  
 Call 0121 442 4499

**Irish Music Session**  
 Wed at 8pm,  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,  
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Open Mic Night**  
 Mon at 8.30pm, Free  
 Katie Fitzgerald's, Wollaston,  
 Stourbridge, DY8 3TB.  
 Call 01384 374410

**Greg Russell and Ciaran Algar**  
 Mon at 8pm, £10  
 Stafford Gatehouse Theatre,  
 ST16 2LT.  
 Call 01785 254653

**Hayes Carll**  
 Sat at 8pm - 11pm, £15  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
 B5 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

**Oh Susanna**  
 Wed at 7.30pm - 11pm, £13  
 Hare & Hounds, Kings Heath,  
 B14 7JZ. Call 0844 870 0000

**Sandpiper Folk Club Night**  
 Wed at 7.45pm,  
 Pigot Arms, 11 High Street,  
 Pittingham,  
 Wolverhampton, WV6 7BQ.  
 Call 01902 700207

**Common Folk: Singers' Night**  
 Thu at 8.30pm,  
 Pelsall Cricket & Sports Club,  
 Walsall Road, Walsall,  
 WS3 4BP.  
 Call 01922 682018

**Brewood Acoustic Club**  
 Thu at 8pm,  
 Brewood Cricket Club, Four Ash-  
 es Road, Brewood,  
 ST19 9HX.  
 Call 01902 850422

**Country Music Nights**  
 Sun at 8.15pm, £2  
 Swan With Two Necks,  
 Longdon, WS15 4PN.  
 Call 01543 491570

## THEATRE

**Sunset Boulevard**  
 Tues, Wed, Thur at  
 2.30pm/7.30pm  
 £15.50 - £21.50  
 Grand Theatre,  
 Wolverhampton  
 WV1 1DE.  
 Call 01902 429 212

**Open Door**  
 Mon at 8pm - 9.30pm, Free  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
 B1 2EF. Call 0121 236 4455

**The Return Of Neverland**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £10 - £15  
 Prince Of Wales Centre,  
 Cannock, WS11 1DE.  
 Call 01543 578762

**Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat (Over 3s)**  
 Fri at 4.30pm, Sat at 1pm,  
 3.30pm, £8 - £12.50  
 Wolverhampton Grand Theatre,  
 WV1 1DE.  
 Call 01902 573320

**Common Wealth - No Guts, No Heart, No Glory**  
 Tue at 7pm, Wed at 1.30pm, Thu  
 at 1.30pm, £12 - £17  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
 B1 2EP.  
 Call 0121 236 4455

**Pardon Me, Prime Minister**  
 Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at  
 7.30pm,  
 The Rose Theatre, Broadwaters,  
 Kidderminster, DY10 2RX.  
 Call 01562 743745

**Sylvie Guillem - Life In Progress**  
 Tue at 7.30pm - 10pm, Wed at  
 7.30pm - 10pm, £15 - £75  
 Birmingham Hippodrome,  
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Mrs Robinson I Presume + The Graduate**  
 Sat at 7.30pm, Sun at 2.30pm,  
 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue at  
 7.30pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at  
 7.30pm, £14 - £15  
 The Crescent Theatre,  
 Sheepcote Street, Birmingham,  
 B16 8AE.  
 Call 0121 643 5858

**King Charles III**  
 Fri at 7.30pm, Sat at 7.30pm, Sun  
 at 7.30pm, Mon at 7.30pm, Tue  
 at 7pm, Wed at 7.30pm, Thu at  
 2pm, 7.30pm, 7.30pm, £8.50 -  
 £30  
 Birmingham Repertory Theatre,  
 B1 2EP. Call 0121 236 4455

**Simon Smith Cookery Demonstrations**  
 Thu at 7.30pm, £12  
 Lichfield Garrick, WS13 6HR. Call  
 01543 412121

## COMEDY

**Alan Carr**  
 Thurs at 8pm  
 £30  
 Birmingham Hippodrome,  
 B5 4TB. Call 0844 338 5000

**Dick V Dom**  
 Sun at 11am.1.30pm  
 £16  
 Town Hall,  
 Birmingham,  
 B1 2EA. Call 0121 780 3333

**Comedy Rough Works: New Material Night**  
 Sun at 6.45pm, £4  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham, B5  
 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

**The Best In Live Stand-Up Comedy**  
 Fri at 7pm, Sat at 7pm,  
 £5 - £18.25  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
 B5 4TD.  
 Call 0871 472 0400

**The Comedy Club Wolverhampton**  
 Fri at 8.30pm - 10.30pm, £10  
 Molineux Stadium,  
 Wolverhampton, WV1 4QR.  
 Call 0871 222 2220

**My Comedy**  
 Wed at 7pm - 10.30pm, £10  
 Kitchen Garden Cafe, King's  
 Heath, Birmingham, B14 7SA.  
 Call 0121 443 4725

**Paul Chowdhry: PC's World**  
 Mon at 6.45pm - 11pm, Tue at  
 6.45pm - 11pm, £15  
 The Glee Club, Birmingham,  
 B5 4TD. Call 0871 472 0400

## OTHER EVENTS

**AutumnFair**  
 Sun at 10am - 5pm, Mon at 10am  
 - 5pm, Tue at 10am - 5pm, Wed at  
 10am - 5pm, Free  
 The NEC Birmingham, B40 1NT.  
 Call 0121 780 4141

**Bilston Toy and Collectors Fair**  
 Sun at 11am, £1  
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

**Medium Philip Solomon**  
 Tues at 7pm, £9/£10  
 Robin 2, Bilston, WV14 7LJ.  
 Call 01902 401211

Check out full listings in **the ticket** in Friday's Express & Star



# Sylvie lining up for one last dance



Sylvie Guillem as a young girl, and, inset, showing off her ballet dancing prowess

HAILED as one of the greatest dancers of her generation, Sylvie Guillem embarks on her final world tour – giving fans in the West Midlands the chance to say goodbye.

This farewell tour, called Life in Progress, takes in Birmingham Hippodrome on September 8 and 9, from 7.3pm each night. It marks the end of an unparalleled career spanning well over 30 years.

Now aged 50, Guillem began train-

ing at the Paris Opera Ballet School in 1977. She has performed all the leading roles of the classical repertoire and was principal guest artist with The Royal Ballet for more than a decade.

Since 2004 she has been an Associate Artist at Sadler's Wells, and has forged a second, hugely successful career as a dancer in new and contemporary works. Ahead of the second Hippodrome performance, a special

fundraising reception includes a talk from dance critic Sarah Crompton about Sylvie's prolific career.

Sylvie previously amazed Hippodrome audiences as part of its award-winning International Dance Festival Birmingham (IDFB) and funds raised from the reception will go towards commissions and projects planned for IDFB 2016. It starts at 6.15pm and tickets are £30. Book online or call 0844 338 5000.



**"There's never a dull moment with Norma."**

## Musical first for the Grand

ANDREW Lloyd Webber's blockbuster musical Sunset Boulevard makes a long-awaited return to the stage this autumn, performed by West Bromwich Operatic Society in a first for Wolverhampton Grand Theatre.

Based on the Billy Wilder film, the musical version includes music by Lloyd Webber and lyrics by Christopher Hampton and Don Black. It takes place from September 8 to 12 at 7.30pm each night, with a Wednesday matinee (September 9) at 2.30pm.

Silent movie star Norma Desmond is longing for a return to the big screen having been discarded with the advent of talkies. When she meets struggling Hollywood screen-writer Joe Gillis, their subsequent passionate and volatile relationship leads to an unforeseen and tragic conclusion.

### Thrilled

Because of the demands of the role, director Jason Capewell has cast two leading ladies to play Norma, Sarah Moors and Colette Forsyth. WBOS chairman Vivien Davis said: "This has been an interesting experience for us all. Scenes and musical numbers have to be separately rehearsed with each Norma, and we have watched different interpretations and reactions. It has certainly kept the company on their toes."

Sarah Moors said: "I'm thrilled to get the opportunity to play Norma Desmond. It's a part that has become iconic in musical theatre."

"This is the first time Sunset Boulevard has been released to amateurs and we are very lucky to be putting it on. Rehearsals have been demanding but it's been great to get stuck into such a strong acting role. There's never a dull moment with Norma." To book tickets call 01902 429212 or visit [www.grandtheatre.co.uk](http://www.grandtheatre.co.uk)

### Chas & Dave join Rockmas festivities

TICKETS are now on sale for Rockmas 2015 at the Barclaycard Arena, featuring Roy Wood and friends.

The Christmas concert will be opened by Andy Fairweather-Low and The Low Riders.

Great collaborations in the past have seen Rick Wakeman and his son Adam join forces with an opera singer, while the Proclaimers have also supported Roy and his band on stage.

This year Rockmas welcomes Chas & Dave. There will also be a surprise special guest.

The spectacular takes place on December 6. Tickets are on general sale from [www.theticketfactory.com](http://www.theticketfactory.com) or by calling 0844 338 8000.

### From cat in hat to dancing grannies

YOUNGSTERS can enjoy a stage adaptation of Dr Seuss's The Cat In The Hat this week.

This stage version, by Katie Mitchell, is being performed at Wolverhampton Grand Theatre tomorrow (Friday) from 4.30pm, followed by two shows on Saturday at 1pm and 3.30pm. Call Janine Graeme on 01902 573311 or email [janine@grandtheatre.co.uk](mailto:janine@grandtheatre.co.uk) for ticket details.

Expect hilarious routines from naughty schoolchildren to dancing grannies as the Fizzogs perform at the theatre tonight (Thursday). Phoenix Nights star Barbara Nice (aka Janice Connolly) guests in Fifty Shades of Fizzog from 7.30pm.

### Imelda singles out city for show

IRISH singer Imelda May will perform her only UK headline show of the year in Wolverhampton.

The singer, who released debut album Mayhem earlier this year, will perform at the Wulfrun Hall on September 24.

The Dublin singer will come to the city hot on the heels of a successful performance at this year's V Festival, where she drew an impressive crowd to the main stage before duetting with Sir Tom Jones.

She has also collaborated with some of the biggest artists in the industry. Tickets are £27.50 and available on 0870 320 7000 or online at [www.wolvescivic.co.uk](http://www.wolvescivic.co.uk)

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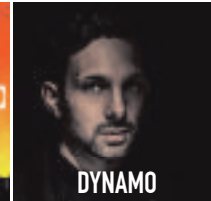
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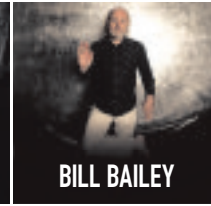
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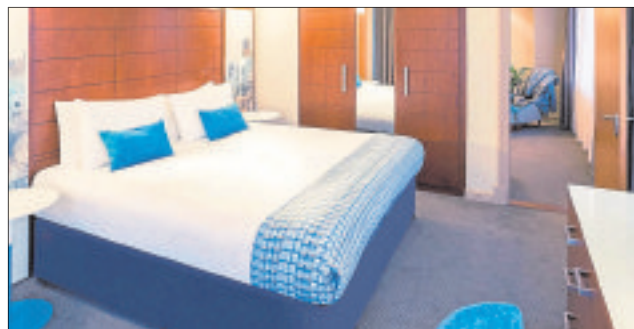




Exterior shot of the Mercure Holland House hotel in the heart of the city



SS Brunel, a museum ship harboured in Bristol



One of the refurbished bedrooms at Bristol Holland House



Landroger Trow, one of the city's hidden treasures

# A tale of two cities loaded with poetry, prose and the Plimsoll Line

By Mark Shipp

**THERE** are no Hard Times in this tale of two cities. But what a Dickens of a history lesson we had.

Bristol and Bath are just 12 miles apart and both are steeped in heritage – and fascinating literary connections. The former can lay claim to Robert Southey, a close friend of Wordsworth and Coleridge and who later become Poet Laureate. Coleridge himself launched the Watchman magazine in the city in 1795.

Child genius Thomas Chatterton, who died at the age of 17, was born in the city, which is also home to award-winning writer and poet Helen Dunmore.

More famous links are those of Robert Louis Stevenson and Daniel Defoe. Legend has it that Defoe based Robinson Crusoe on Alexander Selkirk, whom he met in the

Llandoger Trow in King Street. The Hole in the Wall pub, in Queens Square, reputedly forms the basis of the Spyglass pub in Robinson's Treasure Island. Both feature in a list of hidden treasures, created by Mercure and Blue Badge tourism guides.

Jane Austen, a one-time resident of neighbouring Bath, spent time in Bristol and is believed to have stayed in Clifton.

But Bristol is also famed for other key maritime and engineering achievements. Italian explorer John Cabot is honoured with a statue. He settled in Bristol in 1840, and seven years later discovered Newfoundland. SS Brunel was the world's longest passenger liner from 1845-54 and is now a leading visitor attraction and museum ship.

Samuel Plimsoll, inventor of the ship loading line which bears his name, is an-

other famous Bristolian. Concorde, the motorbike and sidecar – and even lead shot, originated in Bristol, as did Schweppes and Harvey's Bristol Cream. Chocolatier Joseph Fry opened his first shop in the city in 1756.

Wallace & Gromit maybe famous Bristol creations, but did you know that Deal or No Deal, Casualty and Shoestring – even Only Fools and Horses were all filmed there.

All this and more my partner and I discovered when we stayed at the Mercure Bristol Holland House Hotel, welcoming accommodation in the centre of a vibrant and clean city.

A recent transformation has seen its 275 rooms and public spaces renovated, all giving a nod to the city's industrial and sea-faring heritage. It also boasts 12 conference rooms, a spa and 14 treatment rooms.

We were also treated to Flavours From the Cellar, a wine concept launched by

Saturday Kitchen's Susie Barry and Peter Richards. Their offerings feature across 72 of the chain's hotels alongside other locally selected wines.

The city offers so much to do, from the oldest established market, St Nicholas, which dates to 1873, the mall at Cribbs Causeway, housing 135 top stores, and the Avon Valley Railway nostalgia steam train.

The next day, we headed to Bath, where its own literary connections should not be under-estimated. Austen aside, Frankenstein author Mary Shelley and her husband Percy Bysshe Shelley lodged there, Tobias Smollett penned part of his Expedition of Humphrey Clinker in the city and Dickens set part of Pickwick Papers there. Author Jacqueline Wilson was also born in Bath.

We finished the weekend at Bath races where, a jockey named Hardy – Cam Hardie – to be precise, scored a double.

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CHOICE



**Strictly Come Dancing – The Launch Show (BBC1, 7.15pm)**  
Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the launch event, featuring performances by singers Jess Glynne and Gregory Porter, in which this year's celebrities meet their dance partners for the first time. Among the celebrities taking part are Jeremy Vine, Ainsley Harriott, Kellie Bright, Georgia May Foote, Katie Derham, Carol Kirkwood, Peter Andre, Daniel O'Donnell and Anthony Ogogo. Last year's reigning champions Caroline Flack and Pasha Kovalev return to the ballroom for one last performance.

BBC1

**6.00 Breakfast. 10.00 Saturday Kitchen** Best Bits. **11.30 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) 12.00 BBC News: Weather. 12.10 Football Focus. 12.50 Live Rowing. The World Championships. 2.30 Athletics. 3.30 Bargain Hunt. (R) 4.15 Escape to the Country. (R) 5.00 Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix Qualifying Highlights. Suz Perry introduces action from the session at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza, where the 12th round of the season is set to take place.**

**6.10 BBC News.**

**6.20 Pointless Programme.**

**6.30 Pointless Celebrities.** Alexander Armstrong and Richard Osman present the general knowledge quiz with famous faces from television comedies, including Nigel Planer and Jeremy Dyson.

**7.15 Strictly Come Dancing – The Launch Show.** Tess Daly and Claudia Winkleman host the launch event as this year's celebrities meet their professional partners, and there is music by singers Jess Glynne and Gregory Porter.

**8.35 The National Lottery: Five Star Family Reunion.** A UK family and their long-lost overseas relatives must work together in order to win a once-in-a-lifetime reunion in a five-star location. The overseas family must answer questions to win time for their relatives in the UK studio, who will then individually answer questions against the clock. Nick Knowles hosts. Includes the all-important weekend draw.

**9.30 Casualty.** Zoe convinces a bride-to-be to postpone her wedding after the groom passes out in a condemned building on his stag do. Meanwhile, lain faces an assault charge after an altercation with a traffic warden and Louise must try to overcome challenges as she struggles on her first day of nursing.

**10.20 BBC News: Weather.**

**10.40 Mrs Brown's Boys. (R) National Lottery Update.**

**11.10 Film: Meet the Fockers.** (2004) A hapless groom-to-be faces a new one when he takes his staid prospective in-laws to Florida to meet his eccentric parents. Comedy sequel, with Ben Stiller and Robert De Niro.

**1.00 Weather for the Week Ahead. 1.05 BBC News.**

BBC2

**6.25 Film: The Secret Life of Walter Mitty. (1947) 8.10 Film: Hans Christian Andersen. (1952) 10.00 Animal Park. (R) 11.00 More Creatures Great and Small. (R) 11.30 More Creatures Great and Small. (R) 12.00 Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) 12.30 Great British Menu. (R) 1.00 Great British Menu. (R) 1.30 Great British Menu. (R) 2.00 Flop It! (R) 2.40 Film: That's Entertainment! III. (1994) 4.30 The Hairy Bikers' Northern Exposure. (R) 5.30 Gardeners' World. (R)**

**6.00 International Rugby Union.** England v Ireland. Highlights of the Test match at Twickenham, which represented the final fixture for both teams ahead of the Rugby World Cup starting on 18 September.

**7.00 Proms Extra 2015.** Katie Derham looks back at the whole series, as well as focusing on Sir Andras Schiff and his performance of pieces including Bach's Goldberg Variations.

**7.40 Ireland's Wild River: The Mighty Shannon – Natural World.** Naturalist and cameraman Colin Stafford-Johnson takes a canoe journey along the River Shannon, revealing the wildlife that live in the water and along the banks. (R)

**8.40 Dad's Army.** The men of the Walmington-on-Sea Home Guard platoon take charge when a large naval gun is delivered to the church hall. Classic comedy, starring Arthur Lowe and John Le Mesurier. (R)

**9.10 Goodness Gracious Me Special.** One edition of the British-Asian sketch show, including a visit to the trenches of the First World War with Captain Brownadder. Starring Meera Syal and Sanjeev Bhaskar. (R)

**9.40 Cradle to Grave.** Comedy based on the early life of Danny Baker, starring Peter Kay and Lucy Speed. It is 1974, and 15-year-old Danny gets a West End experience he will never forget. (R)

**10.10 Boy Meets Girl.** Comedy about a man who falls for a transgender woman. (R)

**10.40 Country Strife: Abz on the Farm.** The first winter puts Abz and Vicky to the test. Last in the series. (R)

**11.10 Film: Boyz n the Hood. (1991)** Drama, with Cuba Gooding Jr.

**12.55 Film: Black Eagle. (1988) 2.30 This Is BBC Two.**

ITV

**6.00 CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! 6.25 Pat & Stan. (R) 6.35 Dino Dan. (R) 6.45 Dino Dan. (R) 7.00 Sooty. (R) 7.15 Sooty. (R) 7.30 Super 4. (R) 7.45 Fish Hooks. (R) 8.00 Justice: Invasion. (R) 8.25 ITV News. 8.30 Weekend. 9.25 Murder She Wrote. (R) 10.20 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 12.25 ITV News: Weather. 12.35 The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) 1.40 All Star Family Fortunes. (R) 2.25 You've Been Framed! (R) 2.55 The X Factor. (R) 4.00 Regional Programme: Weather. 4.15 ITV News: Weather. 4.30 Euro 2016 Qualifier. San Marino v England (Kick-off 5.00pm).**

**7.15 Keep It in the Family.** Bradley Walsh hosts the game show in which families from Kent and Luton go head to head in a series of fun-filled rounds. Six stars from last year's I'm a Celebrity Get Me Out of Here face the drop as the teams decide whether to swap a prize, drop it or keep it in the family, and there are performances from an American human drumming act and a children's musical theatre group, singing a favourite number from Bugsy Malone.

**8.15 The X Factor.** Oily Murs and Caroline Flack host proceedings as the audition stages continue, with more hopeful contenders seek to win over the panel and secure a place at the Boot Camp. Doing so will first mean they must face the collective criticism of Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora.

**9.30 Through the Keyhole.** Pop star Kimberley Walsh, chat-show host Jonathan Ross and presenter Andi Peters make up this week's panel as Keith Lemon noses around the homes of mystery stars, rummaging through their most treasured possessions. With the help of the studio audience, the panelists use clues highlighted along each tour to work out which famous faces have agreed to hand over their house keys to the Celebrity Juice funnymen.

**10.30 ITV News: Weather.**

**10.45 Euro 2016 Qualifier Highlights.** Action from the latest qualifying matches, including Cyprus v Wales, Georgia v Scotland, Faroe Islands v Northern Ireland and San Marino v England.

**12.15 The Cube. (R) 1.05 Jackpot247. 3.00 Show Me the Telly. (R) 3.50 ITV Nightscreen.**

CHANNEL 4

**6.15 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 6.40 How I Met Your Mother. (R) 7.05 Outlaw Triathlon. 8.00 The Morning Line. 9.00 Frasier. (R) 9.30 Frasier. (R) 10.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 10.30 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.00 The Big Bang Theory. (R) 11.25 The Simpsons. (R) 12.00 The Simpsons. (R) 12.30 The Simpsons. (R) 1.00 Rude(s) Tube. 1.30 Channel 4 Racing. Live coverage from Haydock Park, Kempton Park and Ascot. 4.10 Come Dine with Me. (R) 4.45 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.15 Come Dine with Me. (R) 5.45 Come Dine with Me. (R) 6.15 Come Dine with Me. It's final dinner party in Gloucestershire and the turn of hair salon owner Chris to host an evening of home-made treats, while the guests make a discovery in the living room. (R)**

**6.40 Channel 4 News.**

**7.00 Great Canal Journeys.** Timothy West and Prunella Scales conclude their odyssey in the Burgundy region of France, where they travel along the Canal du Nivernais, which passes through towns and villages steeped in history. The duo also visit the market town of Chablis to help with the annual grape harvest and the medieval city of Auxerre before reflecting on what the journey has meant to them as a married couple. Last in the series.

**8.00 Our Guy in India.** Guy Martin takes a 1,000-mile journey across India to compete in a race called Rider Mania, the world's largest gathering of Royal Enfield motorbikes. In the first of two programmes, the daredevil rides with a 50-strong biker gang, visits Asia's biggest truck yard and finds himself completely out of his comfort zone. (R)

**9.00 It Was Alright in the 1970s.** New series. Matt Lucas narrates another look back at the decade's TV shows, beginning with 70s-style education, including the lessons learnt from television about society and sex.

**10.00 Film: Immortals. (2011)** A man is chosen by the Greek gods to prevent a power-mad king from conquering the human and immortal worlds. Mythological adventure, with Henry Cavill.

**12.15 Film: The Double. (2013) 1.50 The Last Leg. (R) 2.45 Hollyoaks. (R) 4.55 Selling Houses with Amanda Lamb. 5.50 101 Things You Should Know. (R)**

CHANNEL 5

**6.00 Milkshake! 10.00 SpongeBob SquarePants. 10.35 Beavere! Cowboy Builders Abroad. (R) 11.30 Film: McLintock! (1963) 2.05 Film: Shenandoah. (1965) American Civil War Western, starring James Stewart. 4.10 Psycho Pussies: When Cats Attack. (R) 5.10 Elizabeth II: The Longest Reign. 6.05 The Nightmare Neighbour Next Door.**

A group of residents in Guildford object when the occupant of a one-bedroom council flat decides to transform his home into a "cannabis cafe". Having turned a blind eye to their unruly neighbour's all-night parties and unwelcome lodgers, this latest development proves to be a step too far. In a small community in Wales, new arrivals cause a stir when they decide to convert a local pub into their new home, and in Lincolnshire, a young father becomes the victim of a violent assault after asking the man living in the flat below his to keep the noise down. (R)

**7.00 Cricket on 5.** England v Australia. Action from the second contest in the five-match series, which took place at Lord's.

**7.55 5 News Weekend.**

**8.00 Can't Pay? We'll Take It Away.** Brian O'Shaughnessy and Graham Aldred's first case sees them in a Brighton health spa as they search for assets to seize in pursuit of a £220,000 debt. Following a stand-off, they devise a way to work with the owner and her professional advisers to come up with a solution. Later, Graham reveals his softer side when he revisits a woman who defaulted on a debt payment plan. (R)

**9.00 Football League Tonight.** Kelly Cates and George Riley present extended highlights of the weekend's top matches, including Southend United v Peterborough United and Chesterfield v Wigan Athletic, as well as all the goals from League One and League Two.

**10.30 Celebrity Big Brother.**

**11.30 Tattoo Disasters UK.** A drunken man who used a tattoo gun to etch names on his arms, and a needle-phobic university student whose ear piercing led to a fight for her life. (R)

**12.00 SuperCasino. 3.10 Celebrity Big Brother. (R) 4.00 Transporter: The Series. 4.45 Access. 4.50 Make It Big. 5.10 5.45 Angels of Jarm. (R)**

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**

**7.00 Great Movie Mistakes 7.15 Don't Tell the Bride 8.15 Top Gear Vietnam Special 9.30 Film: Deep Impact (1998) 11.20 Family Guy 1.15 Top Coppers 1.45 Fried 2.15 Impractical Jokers 3.45 Sunny D 4.00 Close**

**BBC Four**

**7.00 India's Frontier Railways 8.00 Sicily Unpacked 9.00 The Young Mountbatten 10.55 Kate Bush at the BBC 11.55 The Kate Bush Project: Running Up That Hill 12.55 Sounds of the Eighties 1.25 The Fight for Saturday Night 2.55 India's Frontier Railways 3.55 Close**

**ITV2**

**12.00 The Xtra Factor 1.05 You've Been Framed! 2.10 Catchphrase 2.55 Film: Small Soldiers (1998) 5.10 Film: Peter Pan (2003) 7.20 Film: Dante's Peak (1997) 9.30 The Xtra Factor 10.30 Film: American Pie Presents: The Naked Mile (2006) 12.35 Tricked: More Favourite Tricks 1.40 Fake Reaction 2.15 Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records 2.40 The Hot Desk: Ella Henderson 2.50 Telephoning 5.50 ITV2 Nightscreen**

**ITV3**

**1.30 Film: The Belles of St Trinian's (1954) 3.20 Agatha Christie's Marple 5.25 Film: Columbo: The Bye-Bye Sky-High IQ Murder Case (1977) 7.30 Doc Martin 8.00 Lewis 10.00 A Touch of Frost 12.15 Wire in the Blood 1.40 On the Buses 2.05 ITV3 Nightscreen 2.30 Telephoning**

**ITV4**

**11.50 Hogan's Heroes 12.20 The Professionals 2.25 Pawn Stars 3.20 Film: Destry (1954) 5.20 Film: Gunsmoke (1953) 7.00 Cycling 8.00 Film: Police Academy 2: Their First Assignment (1985) 9.50 Film: Sentinel (2006) 12.05 Cycling 1.00 The Cycle Show 1.55 Alias Smith and Jones 2.50 ITV4 Nightscreen 3.00 Telephoning**

**E4**

**11.00 How I Met Your Mother 12.00 Made in Chelsea LA 1.00 The Goldbergs 2.00 Melissa & Joe 3.00 Film: Angus, Thongs and Perfect Snogging (2008) 5.00 The Big Bang Theory 9.00 Film: Priest (2011) 10.50 Rude Tube 11.55 Bad Robots 12.25 Gogglebox 2.30 How I Met Your Mother 4.00 The Mindy Project 4.25 Suburgatory 5.10 Revenge**

**Film4**

**11.00 Carry On Behind (1975) 1.00 Big Fish (2003) 3.25 The Longest Day (1962) 7.00 17 Again (2009) 9.00 The Hunger Games (2012) 11.45 The Happening (2008) 1.30 Shutter (2008) 2.30 Close**

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**Lady Chatterley's Lover (BBC1, 9pm)**  
Adaptation of DH Lawrence's classic novel about an aristocratic woman enjoying a happy marriage to her husband, until he is severely wounded while fighting in the First World War. Confined to a wheelchair, Sir Clifford Chatterley becomes more distant from Lady Constance, who embarks on a passionate affair with the estate's gamekeeper Mellors. Knowing their affair would scandalise society and ostracise them both, they strive to evade the growing suspicions of her jealous and vengeful husband.

BBC1

**6.00** Breakfast. **9.00** The Andrew Marr Show. **10.00** Sunday Morning Live. **11.00** Homes Under the Hammer. (R) **12.00** Bargain Hunt. (R) **1.00** BBC News; Weather. **1.15** Escape to the Country. (R) **2.15** Eat Well for Less? (R) **3.10** The Great British Bake Off. (R) **4.10** Points of View. **4.25** Songs of Praise – Gospel Choir of the Year. **5.05** Formula 1: Italian Grand Prix – Highlights. Action from the 12th round of the season at the Autodromo Nazionale Monza, where title contenders Lewis Hamilton, Nico Rosberg and Sebastian Vettel battled for precious points. **6.35** BBC News. **6.50** Regional Programme. **7.00** Countryfile. John Craven takes to the skies with the Environment Agency in Cumbria to discover a new line of defence in the battle against flooding, which involves restoring rivers to their original meandering routes. Anita Rani meets a rural farming community that lost its livelihood to foot and mouth disease, and the horse whisperer whose life was turned around by her love of the animals. Plus, the One Man and His Dog sheepdog trial teams are profiled, with Adam Henson visiting the Ireland squad, and Charlotte Smith heading to Scotland. Including Weather for the Week Ahead. **8.00** Antiques Roadshow. New series. Fiona Bruce and the team return to examine more items brought in by viewers, beginning with a visit to Plas Newydd Country House and Gardens on Anglesey. Collectibles assessed include a Victorian cane carved with an image of the Menai suspension bridge, an 18th century grandfather clock, and two giant toy giraffes. **9.00** Lady Chatterley's Lover. Adaptation of DH Lawrence's novel about an aristocratic woman who embarks on a passionate affair with her disabled husband's gamekeeper. **10.30** BBC News. **10.50** Regional Programme. **11.00** Kokkita with Sue Perkins. Sue Perkins details how the West Bengal state capital, formerly known as Calcutta, discarded its Colonial heritage to become a 21st-century city with a reputation for tolerance. (R) **12.00** Weather for the Week Ahead. **12.05** BBC News.

BBC2

**6.15** The Instant Gardener. (R) **7.00** Countryfile. (R) **8.00** Gardeners' World. (R) **8.30** The Beechgrove Garden. **9.00** Saturday Kitchen Best Bites. **10.30** Terry and Mason's Great Food Trip. (R) **11.00** Great British Menu. (R) **11.30** Great British Menu. (R) **12.00** Live Rowing. **2.00** Natural World: Heli-gan – Secrets of the Lost Garden. (R) **3.00** Burghley Horse Trials. **5.00** Jungle Atlantis. (R) **6.00** World's Weirdest Events. Chris Packham presents this documentary unlocking secrets behind unusual occurrences beginning with a monkey that knows first aid and a bird-killing solar death ray. (R) **7.00** World's Busiest Railway 2015. Dan Snow, Anita Rani and Robert Llewellyn go behind the scenes at Mumbai's Chhatrapati Shivaji Terminus to find out what role it plays in long distance travel across India. (R) **8.00** Dragons' Den. Entrepreneurs pitch their money-making ideas, including a storage business for public schools, flat pack furniture and an invention to assist dog and horse owners. **9.00** Special Forces – Ultimate Hell Week. A former Israeli counter-terrorism operative puts the remaining 22 contestants through their paces, including trying to remove a Land Rover from a mud pit with their bare hands. **10.00** Odyssey. Odelle and Luc's hopes of leading a quiet life in Algeria are shattered when Odelle finds herself thrust into the media spotlight after rescuing a drowning girl. **10.40** Family Guy. Peter discovers his first name is actually Justin, and takes on the new moniker to create a younger, hipper alter-ego, before holding a party. **11.05** Family Guy. Meg has fun partying with Peter when he takes her to a college, and Brian has to learn how to live in the wild after being sprayed by a skunk and forbidden from entering the house. **11.25** Family Guy. **11.45** Film: Soul Men. (2008) A soul-singing duo who have not spoken in years since falling out over a woman travel across America to perform at a tribute concert. Comedy, with Samuel L Jackson. **1.25** Sign Zone: Countryfile. (R) **2.20** Holy City. (R) **3.20** This Is BBC Two.

ITV

**6.00** CITV: The Aquabats! Super Show! **6.25** Pat & Stan. (R) **6.35** Dino Dan. (R) **6.45** Dino Dan. (R) **7.00** Sooty. (R) **7.15** Sooty. (R) **7.30** Super 4. (R) **7.45** Fish Hooks. **8.00** Young Justice: Invasion. (R) **8.25** TV News. **9.30** Weekend. **9.25** Murder, She Wrote. (R) **10.25** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R) **11.30** ITV News; Weather. **11.45** The X Factor. (R) **1.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain Live. Coverage of the opening stage of the race. **4.00** Catchphrase. (R) **4.45** Film: Mr Bean's Holiday. (2007) Comedy, starring Rowan Atkinson. **6.15** Regional Programme; Weather. **6.30** ITV News; Weather. **6.45** Animal Mums. How young animals copy their mother to learn new skills that are vital to keep them a live in the wild, including cheetah cubs learning how to hunt, with Liesl Eichenberger of the Sanbona Reserve in South Africa explaining the different stages of hunt school. Gonilla researcher Eva Maria Luef reveals the different gestures used to beg for food from their mother and initiate play. Last in the series. **7.45** The X Factor. Caroline Flack and Olly Murs present further coverage of the audition process, as another batch of applicants perform in front of judges Simon Cowell, Cheryl Fernandez-Versini, Nick Grimshaw and Rita Ora, as well as an arena audience of thousands, in the hopes of winning one of the coveted places at the Boot Camp. **9.00** The Trials of Jimmy Rose. Jimmy sees a local drug dealer meeting Tony, an old partner in crime whose violent actions led to an increase in his sentence. When he learns that Ellie and Aaron are in trouble because of his actions, Jimmy finds himself forced to consider working with Tony once again. Jackie has an encounter with the police and is forced to lie to them, leaving her convinced that her husband cannot change. Drama, starring Ray Winstone. **10.00** ITV News; Weather. **10.15** Film: Notting Hill. (1999) A London bookshop owner falls for a glamorous Hollywood film star, but intrusive media interest makes for a tricky relationship. Romantic comedy, with Hugh Grant and Julia Roberts. **12.35** Jackpot247. **3.00** Motorsport UK. **3.50** ITV Nightscreen. **5.05** The Jeremy Kyle Show. (R)

CHANNEL 4

**6.15** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **6.40** How I Met Your Mother. (R) **7.05** British GT. (R) **7.30** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.00** Everybody Loves Raymond. (R) **8.30** Frasier. (R) **9.00** Frasier. (R) **9.30** Sunday Brunch. **12.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.00** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.30** The Big Bang Theory. (R) **1.55** The Simpsons. (R) **2.25** The Simpsons. (R) **2.55** The Simpsons. (R) **3.25** Phil Spencer: Secret Agent. **4.25** Location, Location, Location. **5.30** A Place in the Sun: Home or Away. **6.30** Channel 4 News. **7.00** The Queen's Big Night Out. The story of VE Day 1945, when the future Queen and Princess Margaret joined revellers on the streets of London on May 8 to celebrate the end of the Second World War in Europe. (R) **8.00** Time Crashers. The celebrities experience life as servants in an Edwardian stately home in 1913, where the staff have to answer to a stern butler and a strict housekeeper. Kirstie Alley is excited to be the Lady's maid, but the aloof manner of her mistress doesn't go down well with the Hollywood star. Greg Rutherford takes his duties seriously, including emptying Keith Allen's chamber pot, and disaster strikes when housemaid Fern Britton drops some cake. The realities of life below stairs hit home as one of the celebrities is unceremoniously dismissed for refusing to carry out her duties. Presented by Tony Robinson. **9.00** Film: Iron Man 2. (2010) Premiere. Tycoon-turned-superhero Tony Stark confronts a fearsome new foe in a Russian scientist using his own deadly hi-tech weapons to seek revenge. He also faces a struggle to keep his secrets out of the hands of both the government and an amoral rival, and discovers the armour he developed to fight evil is slowly killing him. Action adventure sequel, with Robert Downey Jr, Mickey Rourke and Don Cheadle. **11.30** Film: The Hurt Locker. (2008) A US bomb disposal team in Iraq is assigned a new leader whose reckless attitude puts all its members lives at risk. Kathryn Bigelow's drama, with Jeremy Renner and Anthony Mackie. **1.40** Film: Rust and Bone. (2012) **3.45** Come Dine with Me. (R)

CHANNEL 5

**6.00** Milkshake!: Peppa Pig. **6.05** Bananas in Pyjamas. (R) **6.20** Angelina Ballerina. (R) **6.30** Pip Ahoy! (R) **6.45** Tickety Toc. (R) **6.55** Chloe's Closet. (R) **7.10** Roobarb and Custard Too. (R) **7.15** Make Way for Noddy. (R) **7.30** Paw Patrol. (R) **7.40** Little Princess. (R) **8.00** Wanda and the Alien. (R) **8.10** Zack and Quack. **8.25** Ben and Holly's Little Kingdom. (R) **8.40** Jelly Jam. (R) **9.00** LazyTown. (R) **9.25** Dora and Friends. (R) **9.55** SpongeBob SquarePants. **10.30** Football League Tonight. (R) **12.00** Police Interceptors. (R) **12.55** Film: Message in a Bottle. (1999) Romantic drama, with Kevin Costner and Robin Wright. **3.20** Film: White Fang. (1991) Adventure, starring Ethan Hawke. **5.25** Film: Superman II. (1980) Comic-strip adventure sequel, with Christopher Reeve. **8.00** 5 News Weekend. **8.05** Police Interceptors Unleashed with Vinnie Jones. A drug dealer acts casually when officers burst through his door, but cannot hide the cannabis farm which is taking up a third of his house. Plus, an operation to tackle cash-point thieves turns up some nasty weapons, the Essex interceptors rescue a man from his flooded flat, and in Lincolnshire a vocal drunk seems a little too keen to receive a full cavity search. Presented by Vinnie Jones. (R) **9.00** Celebrity Big Brother. A chance to catch up with the latest events inside the house as the celebrities cope with living under constant surveillance, with all the arguments and alliances, as well as the revelations in the diary room. **10.00** 20 Moments That Rocked the 90s. Cold Feet star Helen Baxendale presents a countdown of memorable moments from the 1990s, including the death of Diana, Princess of Wales and the chart battle between Blur and Oasis. **11.30** Film: Alien Hunter. (2003) Scientists examine an alien artefact found in Antarctica, only to unleash a strange creature and a deadly flesh-eating virus. Sci-fi thriller, starring James Spader and Janine Eser. **1.10** SuperCasino. Live interactive gaming. **3.10** Beware: The Cops Are Watching. (R) **4.00** House Doctor. (R) **4.25** Make It Big. (R) **5.45** Angels of Jarm. (R)

DIGITAL

**BBC Three**  
**7.00** Great Movie Mistakes III: Not in 3D **7.05** Film: Shrek Forever After (2010) **8.30** World's Craziest Fools **9.00** Film: Jarhead (2005) **11.00** Russell Howard's Good News Extra **11.45** Family Guy **12.30** American Dad! **12.50** Family Guy **1.15** Top Coppers **1.40** Secrets of China **2.40** Don't Tell the Bride **3.40** Rades **3.55** Close **BBC Four**  
**7.00** BBC Proms Sunday Symphony **8.00** Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **8.30** Nicola Benedetti's Indian Serenade **9.00** Bollywood and Beyond: A Century of Indian Cinema **10.30** Van Morrison – Up on Cyprus Avenue **11.30** Thin Lizzy – Bad Reputation **12.30** The Joy of the Guitar Riff **1.30** The Kinks at the BBC **2.30** Nina Simone & Me with Laura Mvula **3.00** Nicola Benedetti's Indian Serenade **3.30** Close **ITV2**  
**12.20** Film: Cats & Dogs (2001) **2.05** Film: The Flintstones (1994) **3.50** You've Been Framed! **4.20** The X Factor **5.35** The Xtra Factor **6.40** Film: E.T.: The Extra-Terrestrial (1982) **9.00** The Xtra Factor **10.00** Film: Pitch Black (2000) **12.15** Safeword **1.00** Totally Bonkers Guinness World Records **1.25** Viral Tap **2.05** Animal Practice **2.30** Teleshopping **ITV3**  
**12.25** Agatha Christie's Marple **2.25** Lewis **4.35** Inspector Morse **6.55** Agatha Christie's Marple **9.00** It'll Be Alright on the Night **10.00** Birds of a Feather **10.30** Northern Lights **11.30** Film: Meet Joe Black (1998) **2.50** ITV3 Nightscreen **3.15** Emmerdale **ITV4**  
**5.45** Movies Now **6.00** Pawn Stars **6.25** Cycling **7.30** Euro 2016 Qualifier. Italy v Bulgaria (Kick-off 7.45pm). **10.00** Cycling: Tour of Britain **11.00** Film: TT: Closer to the Edge (2011) **1.05** Cycling **2.05** Hell on Wheels **3.00** Teleshopping **E4**  
**12.30** Couples Come Dine with Me **2.35** Bad(ish) Robots **3.00** Rude(ish) Tube **3.30** The Big Bang Theory **4.30** Film: Alvin and the Chipmunks: The Squeakquel (2009) **6.20** Rude(ish) Tube Shorts **6.30** The Big Bang Theory **10.30** Gogglebox **12.35** Young, Free & Single **1.40** Rules of Engagement **2.30** 2 Broke Girls **2.50** Gogglebox **3.45** Hollyoaks **Film4**  
**11.00** Honey, I Shrank the Kids (1989) **1.00** Black Knight (2001) **2.45** Ice Age: Continental Drift (2012) **4.30** The Death and Life of Charlie St Cloud (2010) **6.25** We Bought a Zoo (2011) **9.00** Shutter Island (2010) **11.40** Weekend (2011) **1.40** Blue Valentine (2010) **4.00** Close

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FILM CHOICES

**MONDAY**  
**Heart of the Country, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
The wife of a Wall Street stockbroker finds her glamorous existence brought crashing to a halt when her husband is imprisoned for fraud. Forced to return to rural North Carolina where she grew up, she attempts to make peace with her estranged father and deal with unresolved issues surrounding the death of her mother. Drama, starring Jana Kramer. (2013)

**TUESDAY**  
**My Neighbour's Keeper, Channel 5, 3.10pm**  
A woman unable to have children adopts her dead friend's kids, only to arouse suspicion that she killed their mother to gain a family. Drama, with Laura Harring and Linden Ashby. Edited for daytime broadcast. (2007)

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Deadly Pursuit, BBC1, 11.35pm**  
A big-city FBI agent heads into the rugged terrain of America's Pacific North West on the trail of a killer. When the criminal heads into the hills, the street-smart cop is forced to team up with a mountain guide to catch his target. Thriller, starring Sidney Poitier, Tom Berenger, Kirstie Alley and Clancy Brown. (1988)



Deadly Pursuit, Wednesday, BBC1, 11.35pm

**THURSDAY**  
**Garage Sale Mystery III: The Deadly Room, Channel 5, 3.15pm**  
Jennifer Shannon has a keen eye for a bargain, picking them up at garage sales and selling them for a tidy profit in her own shop. But she also has a nose for a mystery, which comes in handy when she uses her intuitive skills to investigate her friend's death in a multi-million dollar home with a dark history. Crime drama, starring Lori Loughlin. (2015)

**FRIDAY**  
**Rabbit Hole, BBC2, 11.05pm**  
A couple's happy lives are thrown into upheaval by the death of their son in a road accident. As they try to keep their marriage from falling apart, the wife forms a friendship with the driver responsible for the tragedy while the husband immerses himself in the past and turns to another bereaved parent for support. Drama, with Nicole Kidman and Sandra Oh. (2010)

New adaptation hopes to be a novel success

Here's a fact that may make some of those reading this article feel a little old – it's 22 years since Ken Russell's adaptation of DH Lawrence's controversial novel hit our TV screens.

Back then, the sight of Sean Bean's nether regions as he ran through the woods while chasing a naked Joely Richardson raised eyebrows and temperatures – and those who have seen the latest version of the tale claim it's all set to shock a new generation too.

Yes, even in an age where almost anything can be depicted on screen – or at least in Game of Thrones anyway – some people can still be surprised by what appears on a TV screen in the 21st century.

However, Richard Madden, who also stars in the aforementioned adaptations of author George RR Martin's work, is quick to allay any fears that this take is nothing but a long, sordid romp.

"Come on guys, we've got Google," he laughs. "There's nothing that's going to shock us that we're going to do in Lady Chatterley's Lover, is there?"

"All that stigma, all that smut's gone and it's actually just about these three people, which is the fascinating story of it. There's sex and passion in it, but we're not going to shock people like the book did."

The original novel was published in an abridged form in Britain in 1932; it took another 28 years before a full, unexpurgated version hit shelves, leading to an infamous obscenity trial involving Penguin Books. The publisher was found innocent, and the novel has remained in circulation ever since.

The three people mentioned by Madden are Oliver Mellors, the gamekeeper he himself plays, and his employers – Sir Clifford Chatterley and his wife, Lady Constance.

The Chatterleys are happily married until Sir Clifford returns from the First World War. Left impotent and wheelchair-bound by wounds suffered on the front line, he is a shadow of the dashing aristocrat he once was. As he becomes increasingly distant,

Constance finds herself becoming drawn to the brooding and lonely Mellors.

In 1920s Britain, the idea of a servant cavorting with a member of the upper classes was shocking, scandalous and could end with them both being ostracised by their peers. Nevertheless, Mellors and Constance embark on an affair.

Sir Clifford begins to suspect something is going on, and despite his disabilities, it's clear his vengeance will be ruthless if the truth comes out.

Playing the Chatterleys are James Norton and Holliday Grainger, but it's Madden who is gaining the most attention from his participation in the project.

The trailer shows him bare-chested, and some observers have suggested the role could do for his career what Poldark has done for Aidan Turner's.

The screenplay has been penned by Jed Mercurio, whose previous credits include Bodies, Cardiac Arrest, The Grimleys and Line of Duty. A novelist himself, it would appear that Lawrence's work is in safe hands.



Holliday Grainger stars in Lady Chatterley's Lover, Sunday, BBC1, 9pm

BEST OF THE REST

**MONDAY**  
**Doc Martin, ITV, 9pm**  
New series. The return of the comedy drama about the lives of a GP and his patients in a seaside village in Cornwall. With Louisa visiting her mother in Spain to get some perspective on their marriage, Martin knows he needs to try to change for the sake of their relationship, so he endeavours to keep his promise to her to see a therapist. Aunt Ruth arranges an appointment for him with Dr Rachel Timoney, but a lifeboat training exercise causes problems for the doctor. Will he get back in time for his first session? Martin Clunes stars.

**TUESDAY**  
**Euro 2016 Qualifier, ITV, 7.15pm**  
Following their exploits in San Marino at the weekend, England welcome Switzerland to Wembley for their latest Group E qualifier. When the draw was initially made, tonight's visitors were regarded as the strongest opponents Roy Hodgson's men would encounter throughout the qualification process, but the reverse fixture at St Jakob-Park last September saw England claim a 2-0 win following a convincing performance, with both goals coming from Danny Welbeck. The Swiss

– who were once managed by Hodgson – are likely to include several players familiar to the Premier League among their ranks, including Xherdan Shaqiri, Valon Behrami and captain Gokhan Inler, who joined Stoke City, Watford and Leicester City respectively at the start of this season.

**WEDNESDAY**  
**Doctor Foster, BBC1, 9pm**  
It's tempting to turn the TV off and grab yourself a cuppa and a slice of cake once The Great British Bake Off has finished, but from this week, the smart thing to do would be to stay put on the sofa for this new drama. Written by award-winning playwright Mike Bartlett, it stars Suranne Jones as Dr Gemma Foster, a trusted GP with a thriving practice at the heart of a community. She seems to have the perfect life and be in complete control of everything thrown at her – until she begins to suspect that her husband (Jonathan Strange & Mr Norrell's Bertie Carvell) is having an affair. Suddenly, Dr Foster is in turmoil, and begins an obsessive quest to unearth the truth.

**THURSDAY**  
**Hunted, Channel 4, 9pm**  
New series. In today's hi-tech world, where there is a CCTV camera on every corner and everything people do is monitored – from cash withdrawals and supermarket shopping to telephone calls and social media posts – how easy would it be to simply disappear? That's the challenge facing a group of ordinary British people in this social experiment which sees them going on the run and taking extreme measures to avoid detection. Where they go and what they do is entirely up to them – but with a team of expert 'hunters' tracking them down, the task promises to be a tough one.

**Cradle to Grave, BBC2, 9pm**  
Continuing the 1970s-set sitcom based on the early life of radio DJ and writer Danny Baker. Things are looking up

for the future broadcaster when he has a few lessons in biology – both at school and in the bedroom. Meanwhile, his parents Bet and Fred expand their horizons with such rich new experiences as wine, a night out at the Bermondsey small retailers' dinner dance and the piece de resistance – a caravan holiday in Dymchurch. Starring Peter Kay and Lucy Speed, with Laurie Kynaston as the young Danny.

**FRIDAY**  
**Ripper Street, BBC1, 9pm**  
Who'd be a woman in 19th-century London? If Ripper Street is anything to go by, even if you somehow manage to avoid being murdered, there are plenty of other ways to become a victim. In this penultimate episode, it's the shadowy world of illegal abortionists that's thrust into the spotlight following the death of a chemist. Dr Frayn is keen to modernise the practices at the Obsidian Clinic to help the women affected, but she shouldn't count on Long Susan for support, as she's having enough trouble keeping one of her current business ventures going. Meanwhile, Reid is still in Whitechapel, supposedly because Mathilda wants to stay, but does he have his own reasons for not moving on?

Euro 2016 Qualifier, Tuesday, ITV, 7.15pm

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# Charming period home with a swimming pool

## Four bedrooms and a conservatory

THIS detached residence in Dawlish Road, Dudley, is considerably improved and expected to appeal to a variety of buyers due to its size. It is for sale through Your Move at £250,000.

With double glazing and gas central heating to the ground floor it has an entrance porch, an entrance hallway, front and rear living areas (with French doors opening out to the garden from the lounge), a formal dining room, a fitted kitchen, a conservatory, a cloakroom and utility area.

On the first floor there is a landing, four bedrooms and a house bathroom. The gated entrance leads to a driveway to a garage. The rear garden is mainly lawned with a substantial decked area.

Contact Your Move on 01384 455000 or visit the website [www.your-move.co.uk](http://www.your-move.co.uk)



**A CHARMING** period detached family home in Wartell Bank, Kingswinford, is close to the heart of town, and has a beautiful rear garden with a swimming pool.

Having spacious and attractively improved accommodation, it is for sale through Taylors at £199,950 with no chain.

With a conservatory extension it has an attractively refitted kitchen with modern wood-effect units and wood-effect working surfaces and appliances, a re-appointed ground-floor bathroom, a reception hall, an L-shaped lounge and dining area, three large bedrooms, gas central heating and double glazing.

There is also an asphalt driveway.

For further information contact Taylors on 01384 401777 or visit the agent's website at [www.taylors-stateagents.co.uk](http://www.taylors-stateagents.co.uk)



## Impressive detached residence for family



**AN IMPRESSIVE** detached family residence with four bedrooms and four bathrooms in Gorge Road, Dudley, on the edge of Sedgley is just a short distance away from the town centre.

It is for sale through Skitts Estate Agents at £265,000.

With central heating and double glazing, ample off-road parking and a good-sized rear garden, it has a porch, entrance hall, a living room, a bathroom, sitting room, an L-shaped dining kitchen with an oven, hob, hood and microwave, two en suite bedrooms, two further bedrooms and a bathroom.

For further information contact Skitts on 01902 686868 or visit the website [www.skitts.net](http://www.skitts.net)



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## WORDSLEY, Lymsey Croft

A STUNNING, SUBSTANTIALLY EXTENDED & BEAUTIFULLY IMPROVED THREE BEDROOM DETACHED BUNGALOW within this small, exclusive cul de sac close to local shops / amenities, offering an incredibly spacious and attractively appointed layout which is 'ready to move into'. Enjoying a large attractive frontage with block paved driveway, enclosed side drive, GARAGE and a secluded and beautifully landscaped garden. EPC D

£294,950



## KINGSWINFORD, Wolverhampton Road

A TRADITIONAL BAY FRONTED DETACHED FAMILY HOME with BEAUTIFULLY ESTABLISHED & EXTENSIVE REAR GARDENS, very well placed within a sought after address, offering a GENEROUS and WELL PLANNED layout which requires UPDATING. With DRIVEWAY, SECTIONAL GARAGE and the VERY LARGE REAR GARDEN. EPC E

No upward chain

£249,950



## BRIERLEY HILL, Elgar Crescent

This DETACHED FOUR BEDROOM HOUSE designed by 'David Payne' in this noted address, EXTENDED AND PLANNED, offers: HUGE ENTRANCE, Hall, Cloaks/toilet, 18' Lounge, 18' Conservatory, Dining Room, fitted Kitchen, Utility/Playroom, Bedroom/Dressing room (reverts to Beds 1&4), Two further Bedrooms and Bathroom. Forecourt Parking and Garden with 'GARDEN ROOM'. EPC C

£216,450



## KINGSWINFORD, Lydgate Road

This EXCEPTIONAL DETACHED BUNGALOW, extended and appointed to a high standard, enjoys this delightful close, offers: Hall, Spacious 22' Lounge, Dining Room, fitted 'Cream' Kitchen, two double Bedrooms, lovely Bathroom, D/Glazed & Gas C/H. Lawn/drive, Garage, and landscaped garden. EPC TBA

£195,000



## SEDGLEY, Tipton Road

Spacious, modernised, centrally heated (combi boiler), double glazed inter war semi detached of character within level walking distance of the Bullring comprising; porch, hall, dining room with bay (original fireplace), separate lounge, verandah, cellar, upgraded kitchen, utility section and cloaks. Three bedrooms, bathroom with white suite, lengthy driveway to a detached 19ft brick garage, secluded garden. EPC: E SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £189,950



## GORNAL WOOD, Eaton Crescent

SPACIOUS EXTENDED gas centrally heated and double glazed enviably situated in favoured neighbourhood. Accommodation includes entrance porch, imposing reception hall, dining room with bay, extended 15'6" lounge, extended and RECENTLY REFITTED 15'0" kitchen with utility room beyond. Gallery landing three bedrooms (two with fitted 'tulip wood' units), bathroom, large carport, brick garage, expertly tended/secluded

Offers in the Region of £179,950



## Dudley, Hockley Lane

This UNIQUE PROPERTY oozes CHARM & CHARACTER, yet has been EXTENDED & DELIGHTFULLY MODERNISED. In brief to comprise: Hall, TWO RECEPTION ROOMS, Kitchen, Guests W.C, TWO / THREE BEDROOMS, Bathroom, Driveway, DOUBLE GARAGE, Rear Garden. EPC: D

New price

Offers in the Region Of £179,950



## GORNAL WOOD, Windsor Close

Enlarged, gas centrally heated, double glazed link-detached in cul-de-sac just off Guys Lane briefly comprising: hallway, lounge, kitchen, store, enlarged dining room, three bedrooms (one with wardrobes), bathroom with white suite, WC, 23ft garage, 'sun trap' rear garden. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY

Offers in the region of £170,000



## COSELEY, Breen Rydding Drive

OUTSTANDING gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed semi detached accommodation provides entrance hall, delightful lounge, transverse refitted 17'3" dining kitchen with a fine range of 'walnut' effect units and various integrated appliances (patio doors), pantry, utility room, fitted cloak room. Three good bedrooms (two with fitted wardrobes), reappointed bathroom. Garage, neat gardens. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY

Offers in the Region of £165,000





**COSELEY, Strathern Drive**

With **MAGNIFICENT PANERAMIC DISTANT VIEWS** a meticulously maintained **ENLARGED** gas centrally UPVC double glazed semi detached upon **LARGE PLOT** with **SECURE PARKING** to the side. Accommodation includes; entrance hall, lounge, dining room, refitted kitchen, former garage utilised as a family room, large UPVC CONSERVATORY, three bedrooms, reappointed bathroom, landscaped grounds with South facing views. EPC Rating C. SEDGLEY



**COSELEY, Jevon Street**

**SO CONVENIENT!** - Within immediate walking distance of Roseville centre a highly individual, gas centrally heated and uPVC double glazed **DETACHED** with **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. Accommodation provides hall, fitted cloakroom, lounge (with double French doors out to garden), dining room, store, kitchen, Three bedrooms, bathroom. Substantial brick garage, sheltered garden. EPC: D SEDGLEY



**COSELEY, Bramford, Dalwood Close**

Attractive, **ENLARGED**, gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed semi detached situated in short favoured cul-de-sac with **LENGTHY REAR GARDEN**. Accommodation briefly comprises; entrance porch, hall, store, lounge with bay, dining room with patio doors, enlarged mostly refitted kitchen with Ikea units. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Lengthy garden. Garage, and off road parking. EPC: T.B.A. SEDGLEY

### Offers in the Region of £159,950

### Offers in the region of £150,000

### Offers in the Region of £150,000



**COSELEY, Maslin Drive, Hurst Hill**

Gas centrally heated & uPVC double glazed detached bungalow in quiet secluded location. Accommodation includes; entrance hallway, living/dining room, kitchen, **TWO BEDROOMS**, shower room, Driveway & parking, brick garage, garden. SEDGLEY EPC: D.



**LOWER GORNAL Thornleigh, Cypress Avenue**

A significantly **EXTENDED** gas centrally heated and either aluminium or UPVC double glazed semi detached on corner plot offering potential in popular district. Accommodation includes reception hall, L shape lounge (with patio doors), **EXTENDED 25'0" BREAKFAST KITCHEN**. Three bedrooms, **LARGE 21'4" X 10'8" GARAGE**, gardens and parking. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY



**LANESFIELD, Rookery Road**

A freehold, gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed detached bungalow. Accommodation provides porch, reception hall, two double bedrooms, sitting room, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units & many integrated appliances, brick/UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY, reappointed bathroom Off road parking & further gated parking, delightful rear garden. EPC Rating: D.



**LOWER GORNAL, Elan Close**

**EXTENDED** Freehold part gas centrally heated & UPVC double glazed semi detached within walking distance of 'Five ways'. Offering significant potential the accommodation provides; hall, cloakroom, storage cupboards, lounge, magnificent refitted 'hub of the house' kitchen with granite work surfaces/island unit/ integrated appliances, large laundry room. Three bedrooms, bathroom. Garden, solar panel hot water. EPC: C. SEDGLEY



**UPPER GORNAL, Askew Close**

**SPACIOUS** gas centrally heated, UPVC double glazed 'end starter home' Superb accommodation provides entrance porch, reception hall, refitted kitchen with a fine range of units/ integrated appliance's, 16ft lounge, store, transverse UPVC double glazed CONSERVATORY. Three generous bedrooms, reappointed bathroom with contemporary white suite, lengthy 20ft garage, neat garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY OFFICE

**New price** WAS £151,000..NOW £147,000

Offers in the Region of £145,000

Offers in the Region of £145,000

Offers in the region of £135,000

Offers in the Region of £135,000



**GORNAL WOOD, Bank Road**

**WALKING DISTANCE OF VILLAGE!** A gas centrally heated, & uPVC double glazed semi detached that has been completely redecorated and refreshed in recent months comprising; hall, cloaks, kitchen, living/dining room. **THREE BEDROOMS** (principal bedroom with a shower room en suite), bathroom, Parking, garden. EPC Rating: C. SEDGLEY



**HOLLY HALL, DUDLEY, Stourbridge Road**

**MUCH IMPROVED, STYLISH SEMI DETACHED HOME** with gas central heating and double glazing; Porch, Hall, Sitting Room, **FANTASTIC DINING KITCHEN**, Utility, Cloakroom, Three Bedrooms, Modern Bathroom. Drive, Garage (subdivided) and Garden with view. EPC



**COSELEY, Andersleigh Drive**

Outstanding, **EXTENDED**, gas centrally heated, double glazed end 'starter home' with panoramic distant views briefly comprising; entrance hallway, lounge, refitted kitchen with a fine range of beech effect units, sitting room/ snug. Two bedrooms, bathroom. Potential garage space, landscaped garden EPC: D SEDGLEY



**LOWER GORNAL, Wealdstone Drive**

A delightfully presented property situated in the popular area of Lower Gornal, benefitting from UPVC double glazing, part gas central heating, entrance hall way, guest W/C, living room, kitchen-diner, **THREE BEDROOMS**, family bathroom, enclosed rear garden, garden to front. Ideal first time buyer property. EPC Rating D. SEDGLEY



**BROCKMOOR, Station Road**

**RATHER SURPRISING, VERSATILE DETACHED HOME** with gas central heating and some double glazing; Hall, Two Reception Rooms, Kitchen, Hobbies Room, Utility, Guests Cloakroom, Two Bedrooms, Bathroom and Boarded Loft. Drive, Established Garden. **NO CHAIN**. EPC F

Offers in the Region of £130,000

£129,950

Offers around £119,950

Offers in the Region of £117,500

£109,950



**DUDLEY, Dibdale Road**

Modernised gas centrally heated UPVC double glazed intermediate 'starter home' of character that has been carefully restored over the years. Accommodation provides dining room, lounge, refitted kitchen. Two double bedrooms, over stair store, reappointed bathroom, delightful secluded/sheltered rear garden. EPC Rating TBC. SEDGLEY



**DUDLEY, Chestnut Avenue**

A good sized semi detached family home benefitting from gas central heating and double glazing and briefly comprising; entrance hallway, living room, kitchen-diner, Master bedroom with en-suite, two further bedrooms, ground floor family bathroom. Enclosed rear garden, driveway with ample parking and garage. EPC: D SEDGLEY



**UPPER GORNAL, Clarence Street**

Fantastically presented, traditional terraced property situated in the popular location of Upper Gornal and benefitting from gas central heating, living room, dining room, kitchen, re-fitted family bathroom, two bedrooms, spiral staircase leading to loft room, enclosed rear garden, ideal for first-time buyers. EPC: D. SEDGLEY



**PENSNETT/LOWER GORNAL, Sandfield Bridge**

Traditional intermediate terrace of character set in established district within convenient distance of so many amenities and facilities briefly comprising; **TWO** double bedrooms, two reception rooms, kitchen, utility-area, guest WC, first floor bathroom, uPVC double glazed with the rare advantage of concrete panel GARAGE at rear and a garden beyond. **NO UPWARD CHAIN**. EPC: E SEDGLEY



**PENSNETT, High Street**

This **LARGE, ATTRACTIVELY FURNISHED, FIRST FLOOR, FLAT** would make the ideal FIRST TIME BUY or BUY TO LET INVESTMENT. Comprising; Sitting Room, Kitchen, **TWO BEDROOMS**, Shower Room, Off Road Parking, **CENTRAL HEATING & DOUBLE GLAZING**. **NO UPWARD CHAIN** EPC D

Offers in the Region of £105,000

Offers in the region of £104,950

**New price** WAS £100,000..NOW £94,950

**New price** WAS £99,950..NOW £94,950

£64,950





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## 2008 is a perfect mix for compact crossover

Customer demand for 'a car for all seasons' means compact crossover sales continue to rise in the UK.

Buy a brand new 65-registration Peugeot 2008 from next month and get the perfect mix of practicality and desirability. Furthermore, choose a model with the brand's acclaimed Grip Control technology and it will provide exceptional performance all year round, whatever the weather.

More than 30,000 UK customers have bought a Peugeot 2008 since its showroom launch two years ago. Expected to be popular with September new car buyers is the 2008 Urban Cross special edition, featuring Grip Control as standard. This system uses electronic driver aids, coupled with special tyres, to offer drivers greater traction.

Based on Allure trim level, the Urban Cross includes: rear Parking Aid, unique Urban Cross badging, side decals and electric, heated and folding door mirrors. It's priced from just £16,495 OTR.

Standard on every Peugeot 2008 is an athletic design, engaging driving experience, high levels of equipment, comfort and outstanding quality in materials and finish. A choice of eight striking interior trims and five different alloy wheels are available.

### Expertise

Bringing a new level of innovation to the Crossover, it combines Peugeot's expertise from two sectors – the smart design and versatile packaging of the 3008 Crossover and the small car performance of the 208 Supermini.

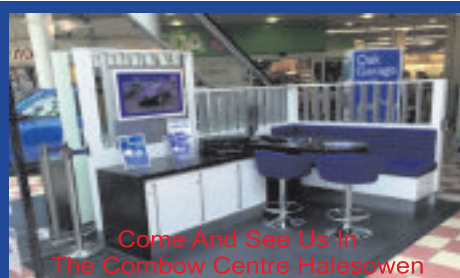
With a characterful presence, the Peugeot 2008 is intended for young city-dwellers who love the urban environment, but also enjoy escaping it!

Power comes from the latest generation of efficient Peugeot BlueHDI diesel and award-winning, 'Engine of the Year' three-cylinder PureTech petrol engines. CO2 emissions are as low as 95g/km, while combined cycle fuel economy is as high as 78.5mpg.

The interior of the Peugeot 2008 provides the driver and passengers with a spacious and flexible cabin, with a cockpit-style instrument panel and aircraft-type handbrake. A smart satin chrome finish to the air vents, handbrake lever, steering wheel, gear lever and touch-screen trims all create a genuinely premium feel.

Folding the 60:40 split rear bench increases the boot volume from 360 to 1,194 litres. One press of the button at the top of the rear seat back is all it takes to fold the seat, as the base cushion retracts automatically. The wide tailgate and low loading lip – just 60cm off the ground – allows exceptional ease of use.

Priced from just £13,195, the Peugeot 2008 is available to buy using the brand's innovative 'Just Add FuelTM' finance package. Combining all motoring costs into a single monthly payment, the Peugeot 2008 Active PureTech 1.2-litre 82bhp is available for £199pcm, over 36 months, following a deposit of £2,080 (4.9 per cent APR).



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# Wagon that sets the pace

By Sharon Walters

It's a little disappointing when a car you've booked for a media test is delayed. But these things happen and so it did with my booking of the all road estate the SEAT Leon X-PERIENCE which had been bumped by the previous journo driving it.

However the very helpful press office sent me a replacement to 'fill the gap' another Leon ST wagon – but a very different car indeed under the bonnet!

It was the Leon ST Cupra – indeed a car that combines the space of a wagon (like the X-PERIENCE) but with simply superb pace. It's the fastest car SEAT has ever made. You can get hot estates that hold more behind but you simply won't get a more thrilling drive.



That's all down to the 280bhp in the 2.0 litre engine which can propel you from 0-62mph in just 6.1 seconds and can (on German autobahns where it's legal) reach 155mph.

OK economy may not be staggering - you can get just over 42 mpg in a combined cycle - and CO2 emissions may not please environmentalists at 157 g/km but what the heck when you can get a family load lugger that makes you positively beam when out on the road. You can't say that about many estates.

So just what do you get? For a start there's 587 litres of luggage space that expands to a massive (for this car anyway) 1,470 with the rear seats down.

The finish is smart, refined and classy with good quality finish and well laid out. There's Alcantara trim on the supportive sports seats, piano-style black gloss on the dashboard and contrasting leather strips to the doors. And it all feels very well built.

Impressive practicality with 587-litre boot, rising to 1,410 litres with seats folded using Easy Rear Seat-back Release Mechanism, plus chrome loading sill and double boot floor design

There's generous standard equipment including: air conditioning, remote central locking, SEAT Easy Connect five-inch touch-screen media system, including Bluetooth phone preparation and media streaming, SD card slot, AUX-in and USB ports and steering wheel controls. On the safety front the list includes multi-collision brake, lane assist and tiredness recognition.

And now we come to the all-important drive. Apart from the fact it is extremely quick, it is also very responsive. My commute into work on winding B roads was pure



.....  
**'My commute into work on winding B roads was pure pleasure, something that's not always the case mainly due to the condition of the surfaces.'**  
.....

pleasure, something that's not always the case mainly due to the condition of the surfaces. But the chassis in the Cupra is excellent and absorbed most of the jarring usually caused by the numerous potholes along the way. It is also a comfortable cruiser along the motorways.

On top of all that it is a handsome looking car attracting admiring looks and also approved by my much-loved dog who lets me know in no uncertain way if he doesn't like the ride by the indignant looks as he imperiously exits a vehicle.

I had the six-speed manual version which costs £29,205. Added to that was an upgraded navigation system for £680 and was worth every penny, while the £505 extra of the orange line finish which included orange alloy wheels, door mirrors, tailgate lettering, front grille surround were, to me, just a little bit tacky.

A leather pack which included leather bolsters and winter treats such as heated front seats and headlight washer system added a further £1,055.

Price £29,205





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**Official Fuel Consumption Figures for the Suzuki Vitara range mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km): Urban 42.1-61.4 (6.7-4.6), Extra Urban 55.4-76.3 (5.1-3.7), Combined 49.5-70.6 (5.7-4.0), CO<sub>2</sub> emissions 131-106 g/km.**

The above fuel consumption figures are based on an EU test for comparative purposes only and may not reflect real driving results. Model shown Vitara SZ5 1.6 Petrol Manual. \*This offer is available from 1st July 2015 to 30th September 2015 from participating Authorised Suzuki Dealers only. This offer cannot be used in conjunction with any other offer unless otherwise stated. This offer relates to Suzuki Personal Contract Purchase. All prices are correct at the time of going to print. Credit is available to persons aged 18 years or over, subject to status. Contract based on 6,000 miles per annum. With Suzuki Finance Personal Contract Purchase you have the option at the end of the agreement to: (1) return the vehicle and not pay the Final Payment. If the vehicle is in good condition and has not exceeded the allowed mileage you will have nothing further to pay. If the vehicle has exceeded the allowed mileage a charge per mile will apply. Up to 4,999 there is a charge of 7p per mile. Where excess mileage exceeds 5,000 a charge of 14p per mile will apply to every excess mile above the allowed mileage (2) pay the Final Payment to own the vehicle or (3) part exchange the vehicle subject to settlement of your existing finance agreement, new finance agreements are subject to status. For full details contact your local Suzuki Dealer. Suzuki Finance reserves the right to withdraw or amend this offer without notice or prior warning. This offer is available to customers within the UK (excludes Channel Islands & Isle of Man). This finance offer is only available through Suzuki Financial Services Limited, part of Lloyds Banking Group, St William House, Tresillian Terrace, Cardiff, CF10 5BH. We can introduce you to Suzuki Financial Services and a limited number of other lenders to provide funding for their vehicles. We may receive commission or other benefits for introducing you to such lenders. For full details contact your local participating Suzuki Dealer. All prices and specifications correct at time of going to print.





# Luxurious but also a sure-footed workhorse

By John Griffiths

It may well go down in history as one of those magic 'eureka' moments when some bright spark in the West Midlands decided to cross a rough, tough agricultural workhorse with a flagship luxury car.

The result, 45 years ago in June, was the launch of the Range Rover which has proved a huge success for British business, and one of the world's most desirable cars – outselling the limousine flagships of many of its competitors, let alone rival SUVs.

Strong sales at home here in the UK, in America and Europe have now been overtaken by sales in China. Yes, it's expensive to buy and run but that's undoubtedly part of its appeal in the dizzy heights of the luxury car market.

When you get behind the wheel of a Range Rover, it doesn't say you're going somewhere. It says you've arrived.

Yet the company is also conscious of its critics which is why the 2015 version of the V6 diesel is cleaner and more efficient than ever, capable of better than 40mpg and cutting CO2 emissions by 8.5 per cent. That's pretty impressive for an engine capable of hauling more than two tonnes of car from a standstill to 60mph in a mere 7.4 seconds.

The changes, including a new turbocharging system, are part of a raft of mechanical and technological upgrades for the latest Range Rovers, continuing a history of innovation which has left rivals struggling to keep pace.

The test car was the £81,850, 3.0 litre TDV6 in popular Vogue SE specification. While it's officially the lowest powered Range Rover, it still has 285PS of power and a whopping 600Nm of torque – more than enough for tackling rough terrain or towing, let alone hustling along the motorway.

While the re-engineered V6 is more frugal at the pumps, its lower, 182g/km CO2 rating cuts tax bills, too.

Linked to an impressively rapid and smooth eight-speed automatic gearbox, progress can only be described as refined, particularly during motorway cruising where you're truly isolated from the outside elements.

There are few, if any cars which provide such a supple, cossetting ride. It's like floating on air – which of course you are, since the Range Rover has an automatic air suspension system design to beat the vagaries of the road.

The added benefit is that it also compensates for cornering forces, and excessive dive under braking, so reducing the 'rock and roll' ride of more conventionally sprung SUVs.

## Effortless

You'll always be aware, particularly on twisty B-roads, that you're driving a big vehicle but despite that the Range Rover is almost surprisingly nimble. Driving, and parking, are effortless.

Another innovation in this 2015 model is the Land Rover-developed All-Terrain Progress Control, which allows you to set a low crawl speed over rough ground and obstacles for maximum traction, while allowing the driver to give his full attention to steering.

A £175 option, it complements the existing terrain response system. You simply punch one of the buttons such as 'snow and ice' or 'mud and ruts' and the engine, transmission, four wheel drive system, suspension and all the electronic aids are set for optimum traction and control for the circumstances.

It is the latest in a long line of technical innovations which has kept the Range Rover ahead of the pack: it was the first SUV to have ABS as standard, the first with traction control and the first with automatic air suspension.

While the vehicle is principally bought as a luxury vehicle, it's part of the Land Rover creed that it has to be the best off-road too – even if the great majority of owners rarely if ever venture off hard surfaces.

The list of equipment is too long to list, but some of the highlights include a 'surround sound' audio, adaptive cruise control, parking sensors and camera, navigation system and electrically operated just about everything.

The test car was also fitted with a new to Range Rover head-up display, whereby selected information is projected onto a screen above the dash and closer to your eyeline. Derived from jet fighter technology, it allows you to see crucial information such as navigation prompts – and more crucially speed – without taking your eyes off the road ahead.

The latest power option is the V6 diesel combined with an electric motor. It's quicker and around 10 per cent more economical than even the V6 diesel, but the cost of showing off your green credentials is £110,150, only slightly offset by fuel savings and lower tax liability of a 169g/km CO2 rating.

The current, fourth generation Range Rover first appeared in 2012 but the improvements to this 2015 test car shows Land Rover is not a company that rests on its laurels.

Having known the company for quite a number of years, it seems to attract (or perhaps make) individuals who don't just want to build a good car: they're constantly striving to be the best. That perhaps is the secret of its success.

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# Mazda2, small but perfectly made-up

By Sharon Walters

There are plenty of superminis around and most of them are jolly good. If you need a small, nimble car to get around town and also to take on longer journeys in comfort, then the supermini for you could very well be the Mazda2.

It's good looking, well equipped, spacious and sophisticated. And the price tag won't make you do a double take.

Mazda2 is also an award-winner having taken this year's Car of the Year in the annual Car Dealer Power Awards, the leading motor trade title's awards decided by votes from UK car dealers, who choose the best manufacturer, models and suppliers they deal with.

It combines Mazda's unique SKYACTIV technology with its KODO: Soul of Motion design philosophy which brings new levels of technical sophistication, active safety and driving pleasure to the supermini sector. Now that sentence may sound like PR speak but it's what I actually believe.

There's a choice of 11 petrol and four diesel engines in the line-up with its signature wing front grille, predatory headlamp styling and muscular cab-rearward styling.

It has a chiseled exterior and a swish interior with more space and a bigger boot than before – all down to an 80mm increase in wheelbase. The deep boot is surprisingly spacious with 280 litres or 960 with the rear seats down. There is just about enough space to get five people in but not really for long journeys – but superminis aren't really meant for people carrying!

A plus compared to some of the opposition, and it may seem trifling but does make for better comfort, is that there's a large glovebox and pockets on the doors will hold large bottles. Even in bigger cars it is often difficult to get a small water bottle securely stowed. Another small touch, but little things can make all the difference, are the soft leather covers on the steering wheel and gearlever which add to the upmarket feel.

The dashboard is smart and neat with the large speedometer having digital readouts for the rev counter and trip computer alongside. Plus there's a first in the B-segment for the first time with a head-up display which displays your speed on the windscreen – so no excuse for getting speeding tickets. There's an easy to use "multimedia commander" between the front seats which enables the driver to control the seven-inch touch screen display system.

## Improved

DAB radio features for the first time in the Mazda2 and, in SE-L Nav and Sport Nav grades, a new navigation system offers improved search features and three years of free map updates. Mazda's in-car connectivity system works with compatible iPhone and Android smartphones to access a variety of free mobile content via Aha™, a cloud platform-based service which features thousands of stations, personalised, location-based services and both Twitter and Facebook audio feeds.

Many small cars are limited in terms of ergonomics – not the Mazda2 which has an excellent adjustment range for the front seats and steering wheel and also unlike many competitors doesn't have the pedals offset. Sit squarely in the seat and you don't have to incline your legs to hit the pedals. For your rear seat passengers there's also no scrambling in thanks to its five doors – there is not a two door option.

There's an array of active safety systems which you don't normally get at this level, including anti-lock brakes, electronic brakeforce distribution, electronic brake assist, dynamic stability control, traction control system and emergency stop signalling. You also get hill hold assist and tyre pressure monitoring as standard across the entire SE-L (90ps & 105ps Diesel), Sport, Sport Nav grades and the Sports Launch Edition model get a lane departure warning system, and smart city brake support – this operates between speeds of 2.5 and 18.5mph when it automatically applies the brakes if the system detects an imminent frontal impact. Safety kit options include an auto brake function blind spot detection, high beam control that automatically dips the headlights to avoid blinding oncoming traffic and lane departure warning.

It is also great fun to drive, too, due to its low kerbweight, an agile chassis and that range of SKYACTIV engines and transmissions.

My driving experience included just about all types – motorway jaunts, hopping in and out of the traffic in the very busy city of Bath and commuting along quiet country roads to my office. And I really enjoyed every experience. The Mazda2 loves busy streets, has the capability to carry you comfortably on long trips and cope with all the luggage returning from a holiday.

A great package.



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MPG figures are official EU test figures for comparative purposes and may not reflect real driving results. Picture for illustration only.

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## Bangers selling like hot cakes

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Even though there are now more bangers coming on to the market, the average price paid at auction for this type of car at auction has risen from £725 in 2013 to £875 in June 2015.

The availability of cheap PCP (personal contract plan) deals for new cars has encouraged many drivers to give up their bangers.

However, even with more bangers coming on to the market, there has been a substantial rise in demand that

means there are more buyers than cars available, so prices have firmed up.

Rupert Pontin, head of valuations at Glass's, said: "We are seeing something interesting going on."

"Since the start of 2013, the number of cars over 10.5 years old being sold at auction has increased by around 50 per cent."

"We believe this is because large numbers of buyers are selling their bangers and signing up to low-cost new and used car PCP deals to get behind the wheel of a newer model."

"However, instead of this flood of bangers entering the market leading to a collapse in values, they have actually increased quite substantially. Enough

new buyers are entering the market to soak up the extra volume and the banger market is actually in excellent health."

Pontin added: "Partially this is as a result of improving economic conditions as more people are feeling confident about buying and running a car at the entry level. However, the quality of older cars on sale is improving all the time, which helps."

"We see many bangers going through auction in excellent condition at very reasonable prices and, for many people, they make extremely sensible purchases."

"It is very much a case of: 'The banger is dead. Long live the banger'."

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Air conditioning • Navi 950 satellite navigation system with CD, MP3 CD player and stereo radio  
Bluetooth® functionality • Dual-zone Climate Control  
USB connection with iPod control  
**OUR PRICE ONLY  
£14995**



**5 New Vauxhall Antara Diamond 2.2Cdti**  
Specification includes:  
ABS • Descent control system (DCS)  
Traction control (TC) • Hill start assist (HSA)  
Air conditioning • Electrically heated front seats  
• Bluetooth® connectivity • 17-inch alloy wheels  
**LIST PRICE £22200  
SAVE £4205  
£17995**

**DON'T MISS THESE FIVE NEW VAUXHALLS WITH SAVINGS THAT COULD MAKE US FAMOUS!**

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0121 503 0001 www.halesowenmotorhouse.co.uk

**T Wall Garages**  
High Street, Pensnett, Kingswinford DY6 8XB  
01384 288333 www.twall.co.uk

**Stourbridge Motor House**  
High Street, Amblecote, Nr. Stourbridge DY8 4DG  
01384 447970 www.stourbridgemotorhouse.co.uk

**Dudley Motor Company**  
Trindle Rd, Dudley, West Midlands DY2 7AY  
01384 454100 www.dudleymotorco.co.uk



Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO<sub>2</sub> emissions (g/km). Highest: VAUXHALL Antara 5 Door SUV 2.2 CDTi 163PS Diamond FWD Stop/Start, M6: Urban: 37.2 (7.6), Extra-urban: 51.4 (5.5), Combined: 44.1 (6.4). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 167g/km Lowest: VAUXHALL Insignia 5 Door Hatchback 2.0 CDTi 140PS Limited Edition ecoFLEX Stop/Start, M6: Urban: 62.8 (4.5), Extra-urban: 88.3 (3.2), Combined: 76.3 (3.7). CO<sub>2</sub> emissions: 98g/km.

Official EU-regulated test data are provided for comparison purposes and actual performance will depend on driving style, road conditions and other non-technical factors. Offers subject to availability, terms and conditions. Vehicles must be registered by 30th September 2015. Pictures for illustration purposes only.



## Index

- 1 Family
- 2 Leisure Time
- 3 Home & Services
- 4 Pets & Animals
- 5 Business & Farming
- 6 Property
- 7 Jobs
- 8 Motoring
- 9 Local Information
- 10 Personals

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masons**

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WV6 0JZ, 01902 751825.  
[info@salockettandson.co.uk](mailto:info@salockettandson.co.uk)  
[www.salockettandson.co.uk](http://www.salockettandson.co.uk)

### lost & found

**LOST**—Dog, (Bitch) Border  
Terrier, Red, Monday August 24,  
Chipped, The Knoll, Kingswin-  
ford. 07739 687222 / 01384 839067.

**1**

### Family

**education &  
tuition**

**CLOISTERS**

**DUDLEY TUTORS** Est 1992  
West Midlands Premier Agency  
Home individual tutoring  
LOCAL QUALIFIED TUTORS  
Protection of Children Act  
regulated and Police checked  
Primary, 11+, SATS,  
Secondary, GCSE, A, Deg, etc.  
0121 2124986  
01902 671683  
[www.cloisterstutoring.co.uk](http://www.cloisterstutoring.co.uk)  
NEW TUTORS WELCOME

**elderly &  
disabled**

**Capitol Mobility-Bilston**  
**SERVICING FROM £15.**  
**SCOOTERS NEW/PROWOWN.**  
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can deliver, servicing available.  
Call: Powerlink, Blackheath 01394  
255019 / 07831 246292.

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belt, used 3 times, £50.  
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**WREKIN STAIRLIFTS** recom-  
mended lifts from £799. New avail-  
able. 01952 405397/07897 273617

**2**

### Leisure Time

**boats & water  
sports**

**WESTERLY GRIFFON 26FT**  
1980  
Volvo Penta 14hp, two mains,  
two genos, storm gib, cruising  
chute, ashore Pwllheli,  
£15,500.  
07891 377695.

**car boot sales**

**ASHWOOD CAR BOOT** Sundays  
from 8am. By Roberts Farm Shop  
on A449, DY6 0AA, 07710 644908.  
[www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk](http://www.ashwoodcarboot.co.uk)

**COL'S CAR BOOT  
& MARKET**  
OPEN EVERY SUNDAY  
AND WEDNESDAY  
PLUS BANK HOLIDAYS  
at Himley Bypass, B4176  
Ring Colin: 07973 904585  
[www.colscarboot.co.uk](http://www.colscarboot.co.uk)  
**OPEN ALL YEAR**

**CAR BOOT SALES!**  
Every Sunday and Bank Holiday Monday  
Every Sunday  
Muckley Corner, Hall Lanes,  
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**Boaters £3.50**  
6.00am-2pm  
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**07538 842842**

**caravans /  
motorhomes**

**SALOP LEISURE**  
Over 150 New and Pre Owned Touring  
Caravans and Motorhomes in stock. Prices  
starting from £1,995 Swift, Sprite, Sterling,  
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CARAVAN DEALER OF THE YEAR.  
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**LET US SELL YOUR CARAVAN** for  
you and achieve the best possible  
price. Seven Valley Leisure, Strou-  
bridge DY8 4HP. 01384 390183

**STATIC CARAVAN**  
28 x 10, 2 bedrooms. On quiet  
park with two fishing pools in  
Mid Wales in Llanbrynmair. Site  
fees included for 2015. Dog  
friendly.  
£3,000.  
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**NEW 2015 STATIC CARAVAN**  
£19,995 - Wilerby Aurora 35 x 12  
Two Bedrooms, Double Glazing,  
Central Heating. Available now on  
over 200 holiday park locations  
across the Heart of England,  
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Scott on 07803290862

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CARAVAN**  
35ft x 12ft, with large decking,  
on quiet site in Llanbrynmair,  
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no age limit on caravans  
£4,850.  
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Gym. Call 01970820450

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Self Catering Holiday  
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### what's on

**antique fairs**

**ANTIQUE/COLL FAIR** Kinver  
Garn Centre, Sun, 6th Sept (also  
Bromsgrove every Fri) EST 1979,  
Waverley, 0121 550 4123. Next  
Book Fair, Sun 20th Sept.

**3**

### Home & Services

#### furniture

**MAHOGANY WALL** unit, with lights,  
cost over £1,000, immaculate con-  
dition, must be seen to appreciate.  
£200. o.n.o. 0121 557 9144.

#### household appliances

**WANTED COOKERS**, fridges,  
washers, must be good, clean con-  
dition and working. 07944 351351.

#### in your garden

**A ABSOLUTE** beautiful cultivated  
lawn turf, grown locally, next day  
delivery from £1.50 per roll.  
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**A BARGAIN AT BUSHBURY**  
FENCING/GATES LTD. Supply/fit.  
WV10 9QQ. Call 07816 863810.

**ACE FENCING**. A better quality  
panel. Supply/fit. Free Quotes: 31  
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**WANTED**. Petrol self propelled  
Lawnmower, high powered, cash  
waiting.  
07930 949337 or 01384 484309.

#### items for sale

**HAVE YOU CHECKED** your adver-  
tisement today? We would respect-  
fully remind advertisers that it is  
their responsibility to inform the  
publishers of any mistakes or in-  
accuracies on the first day of publica-  
tion.

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Wheelchair £40.  
Electric cooker, double oven,  
ceramic top, like new, £125.  
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tail drop, protected, rear lights,  
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**CASH PAID**  
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01543 452491 / 07539 340307

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**CASH PAID TODAY**  
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**ANYTHING OLD &  
INTERESTING**  
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**READERS ARE ADVISED** to care-  
fully consider all of their options  
before agreeing to the sale of any of  
their items.

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• BLOCK PAVING • TARMACING  
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**A BARGAIN PRICED** rewire, all  
fuseboards, lights Grahams Electri-  
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GARAGE DOORS  
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ALL AREAS COVERED  
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01902 861347

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Fitted from only £199  
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**4 Pets & Animals**

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**guns & dogs**

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pets corner

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vets

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**5 Business & Farming**

**business opportunities**

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**7 Jobs**

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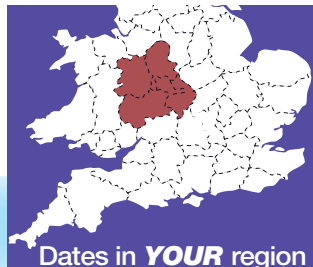
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**JAN** 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

**KERRY** Ann, 39yrs hairdresser, loves to run her fingers through hair! Chaps 30+ pls text, no young lads pls. Text only to Mailbox No: 415505

**ATTRACTIVE** professional lady, widow, 50's, likes walks, sight seeing, theatre, meals out, seeks genuine, professional gent, 5ft 9ins plus to make life more enjoyable. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418615

**JAN** 35yr old blue eyed blonde, outgoing, friendly, WLM passionate guy to share good wine, good conversation, flirting and fun times. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418609

**SENSUAL** tactile, attractive female, long blonde hair, blue eyes, loves travel, winning/dining, WLMT genuine male for mutual companionship. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418587

**BROKEN** hearted lady 39 seeks loving male to mend heart age 39/40. Text only to Mailbox No: 4869116

**KAY**, very young 45, fit and active, no ties, seeks similar young at heart, fun male for fun meets. Age/Status/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418577

**VIVACIOUS** strawberry blonde who knows just what she wants, looking for caring male for spontaneous fun relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418445

**WENDY**, 40, slim, fit, bubbly female looking to meet a tall, slim, fit, mature male who thinks he can keep up. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418369

**JO** 55, curly redhead, loves eating out, theatre, travel, looking for middle-aged prince charming to sweep me off my feet. Text only to Mailbox No: 4464905

**GENUINE** lady looking for genuine male, age 58-60, for friendship and to have a laugh with. So if that's you who would love to hear from you. Text only to Mailbox No: 4537136

**SINGLE** mom, 40yrs, small, not skinny WLMT single dad aged 39 to 45. Text only to Mailbox No: 4295299

**LADY** young at heart, nice eyes, seeks man 42-52 with good sense of humour. Text only to Mailbox No: 4881572

**AMANDA**, 36, tall, slim, busty brunette seeks man, any age, any area, for discreet daytime fun. Tel No: 0906 515 4292 Box 418117

**VIRGINIA**, outgoing social female, 24, tall slim and attractive, looking for fun times, maybe more. Can accommodate/travel. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418645

**DISCREET** man wanted by married lady for no strings fun. I'm called Sarah and am 37yrs. Pls call, ACA Tel No: 0906 515 4299 Box 418167

**LOOKING** for the right chemistry with country loving gent who like me is looking for some extra fun in their life. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418843

**ANNA**, bustly mature lady seeks no strings discreet meetings with male any age or location. Tel No: 0906 515 4295 Box 366019

**LYN**, 43, divorced very lonely single mum, young looking, slim, attractive, WLMT similar male for companionship. Age/looks/Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418795

**MAUREEN**, discreet sensual lady, 42yrs seeks daytime fun at her home. ACA. Tel: 0906 515 4275 Box: 405297

**SOPHIA** very sensual black lady looking to acquire a new distraction with lots of adult fun, thrown in for good measure. Race/age/status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 413399

**POLLY**, 36yrs, cuddly, curvy with fantastic personality, works from home so has time on her hands. Text only to Mailbox No: 4068850

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**TRACY**, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

**THEA**, 36, extrovert brunette, curly hair, rugby fan, WLMT genuine male who will accept her as she is. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417763

**ATTRACTIVE** kind, caring, single lady, loves animals, WLMT uniformed office for genuine, sincere relationship. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 426368

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**ELLEN** 45, attractive, with statuesque curvy figure, looking for an uncomplicated relationship with understanding male friend. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417663

**KAREN** 51fins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

**JULIE**, attractive early 40's brunette, size 10, varied interests, WLMT male for fun times, good conversations, spilling and maybe more. status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418007

**JANE**, 47, voluptuous female, long hair, brown eyes, generous curves, would love to spend cosy nights in with that special male. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417985

**TRACY**, slim attractive cheerful brunette, enjoys aromatherapy/massage, looking for male who appreciates a feminine, sensual lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417787

**BOSTON** female 56 loyal, intelligent, loves history seeks dependable humorous male for friendship. Text only to Mailbox No: 4751421

**MARIA** gorgeous leggy blonde seeks tall professional male for fun nights out, cosy nights in with plenty of TLC and romance. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416861

**SUSAN** 44, stunning curvy blonde, fit and active seeks happy go lucky male for good conversation, fun times, maybe more. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416801

**FEMALE** fun brunette, attractive, 26, seeking male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416287

**TRACY**, 39, brunette, outgoing, down to earth, fit and active has much to offer some one special. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417417

**SUSANNAH**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

**SUSANNAH**, 48, curvy female, romantic, warm and cuddly, seeks similar kind male for a loving relationship with lots of cuddles and kisses. Looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417341

**JEAN**, shy brunette with lots of love to give to the right man, seeks mature male to share relationship with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417285

**GWEN** 38, large breasted, seeks Indian/Pakistani/Kurdish male for daytime fun. Can Travel/accom. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417233

**FUN** loving and independent hot woman looking for a sexy man for fun and maybe more, GSH and grey hair preferable! Text only to Mailbox No: 4709317

**KIND** caring lady early 30s, 5ft5, slim fair hair looking for long-term relationship in a long-term area. Text only to Mailbox No: 452722

**HAPPY**, fit, 77yr old widow N/5 5ft 3in, GSH, loves travel, many interests. WLMT man with caravan/camper to share week-ends/holidays. Text only to Mailbox No: 4429014

**LISA**, 31yr old petite bundle of fun looking for fun, easygoing, genuine guy. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417223

**LINDA**, 47, brown-eyed blonde, caring, loving and honest, many interests, seeks genuine male to share lonely evenings with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417211

**FEMALE** seeking gent 55-70, down to earth, nice and intelligent who knows how to treat a lady. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417195

**KATHERINE**, romantic, slim, feminine, loves life to the full, seeks adventurous outgoing male to appreciate and share life with. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417091

**SANDY**, mature, very young looking widow seeks fit young man to enjoy fun, cuddles and kisses. Call me. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417581

**SHERRIE** 32, blonde, great company, loves going out, looking to share life with that special someone. Status/looks/age unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417067

**KAREN** 50, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, GSOH, loving, caring, understanding, seeking similar male, 55-55. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416989

**THELMA**, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979

**FEMALE**, kind caring and loving seeks similar male for relationship text only all texts answered. Text only Mailbox No: 465519

**PRETTY** slim female, 48, N/5, no ties, seeks tall, slim level headed male for initial friendship and evenings out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416727

**Hi** my name is Zara. I am 5ft 4ins, slim build. I am looking for a genuine male aged between 45 and 50 with GSOH who enjoys going out. Text only Mailbox No: 4362903

**THELMA**, 43, attractive blonde, seeks loving, honest, funny male to pamper and make happy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416979

**DAWN** attractive, easygoing, and dazzling, WLMT well built mature male for fun loving no strings romance. Status unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416917

**MID** naughty forties female looking fun, thrills and discreet meets. Give me a call, you won't be disappointed. Any age with own accommodation. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 409109

**KAREN** medium build, blonde hair, 5ft 5ins, seeks male, 50-58, GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415429

**STELLA** 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

**SLIM** fair-haired lady, 5ft4 looking for a male 30 to 40 for LTR in Warwickshire area. Text only Mailbox No: 452722

**STELLA** 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

**PAULA** 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing man. Call me you'll feel the same. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681

**VAL** 41, pretty, cuddly, flirty, seeks similar fun loving male for an uncomplicated no strings relationship. Age/looks unimportant. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416601

**EILEEN** 49, lovely brunette, adventurous and eager to please seeks intelligent male to share the fun side of life together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416521

**CHRISTINE** 48, shy sensitive brunette looking for lively older male to make her smile again and bring back some passion. s Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416519

**BEAUTIFUL** full figured, down to earth black beauty, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499

**SINCERE** lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/5, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471

**KAREN** 51fins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416337

**JUNE** 50, beautiful, funny, warm, young looking blonde WLMT attractive down to earth male for no strings fun, laughter and love. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416299

**SHELLY** 36, tiny shy brunette seeks down to earth, sensitive, older male to snuggle up, share a bottle of wine with and pamper. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416235

**KATHERINE** 33, pretty blonde would love to get intimate with outgoing, fit guy who is also looking for fun relationship with no strings. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416197

**PAT** 51s, 2ms, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/5, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057

**ALICE** 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087

**DIANE** 37, sensual, tactile and loving seeks tall male for interesting conversations and cosy intimate nights together. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416085

**BRIDGET** 48, voluptuous, seductive and very saucy, seeks male for lots of TLC and to give me very happy in return. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416083

**ATTRACTIVE** tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969

**KAREN** 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

**STELLA** 50, gorgeous, voluptuous and all woman seeks sensual older male, who knows just what he wants for lots of naughty fun and TLC. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416707

**PAULA** 40, sensual, young at heart brunette looking for some fun and romance with a tall outgoing man. Call me you'll feel the same. ACA. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416681

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**ADVENTUROUS** 35yr old, slim, dark hair, creative, likes music, cycling, photography, seeks female friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 417235

**GRAHAM**, 50s, 5'10" tall, blue eyes, very smart, car and home owner, solvent, smoker, WLMT a very feminine vivacious lady, 36-60 for romantic evenings out and holidays. Staffordshire, South Cheshire, all calls answered. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418815

**SHAUN**, 49, brown hair, brown eyes, average looks, 16 and a half stone, good sense of humour, animal lover with loads of love and security to give to the right person. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 418783

**PAT** 51s, 2ms, medium build, attractive, blonde hair, widow, seeking N/5, sincere gent for friendship and days out. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416057

**ALICE** 36, tall and slim with long brown hair, outgoing and sporty seeks funny, intelligent guy to share active days and cosy nights. Age/looks not important. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416087

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**ATTRACTIVE** tall, dark, professional gent, GSOH, likes sports, socialising, good company, seeking female with GSOH for laughs, conversation and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415969

**KAREN** 50, widow, 5ft 5ins, blonde hair, blue eyes, slim, seeks with GSOH, loving, caring and understanding. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 415871

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**BEAUTIFUL** full figured, down to earth black beauty, 37, looking for some serious fun with an experienced, confident, older guy. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416499

**SINCERE** lady, seeks similar gent, widower preferred, 60-67, 5ft 6ins, so slightly taller than me, N/5, car owner and likes a dog. Tel No: 0906 500 3955 Box No: 416471

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## Heathens hand out a crushing defeat

CRADLEY got back to winning ways in spectacular fashion with a crushing 58-35 victory over King's Lynn at Perry Barr.

Having seen their National League title hopes all but ended by a 46-44 defeat loss to the Young Stars at Saddlebow Road, the Heathens gained comfortable revenge.

Faultless paid maximums from Max Clegg and Matt Williamson were backed up by several more impressive displays as team boss Will Pottinger's side moved back within a point of second placed Eastbourne in the table.

After a flying start, Arron Mogridge dusted himself down from an awkward bend one tangle to hold off the hard-charging Darryl Ritchings in heat five to put them 10 clear.

Another composed ride from reserve Mogridge to partner Williamson in heat seven left Cradley well and truly in control with a 16-point lead – although the visitors did hit back with a big 8-1 courtesy of Ritchings in heat eight.

However, the Heathens overpowered the Young Stars, claiming 5-1s in heats 12, 13 and 15 including a daring last-to-second blast from Clegg to join Williamson at the front in heat 13.

Neale played a key role before fortunately walking away from an awkward looking heat 10 tumble.

Ellis Perks added three race wins in a strong all-round performance.

Cradley: Matt Williamson 17+1, Max Clegg 13+2, Arron Mogridge 11+1, Ellis Perks 10, Michael Neale 5+2, Luke Harris 2+1, Nathan Greaves R/R.

King's Lynn: Josh Bailey 11+2, Darryl Ritchings 11+1, Tom Stokes 6, Scott Campos 3+1, Ryan Kinsley 3, Layne Cupitt 1+1, Shane Hazelden R/R.

# Coach proud of swimmer Finch



Chloe Finch, left, and Brittany Horton

SWIMMING sensation Chloe Finch is in high spirits after achieving success on the world stage.

The 17-year-old from Rowley Regis finished eighth in the 400m freestyle final at the World Junior Swimming Championships in Singapore last week.

Although she came last in the final, Finch did extremely well to qualify with a time of 4.14.17 after only managing 15th in the 800m freestyle heats.

She started in lane seven, with fellow Briton Holly Hibbott beside her in lane six, but it was Australian Tamsin Cook who took the crown – setting a new championship record in the process.

Gold medalist Cook was joined on the podium by American Sierra Schmidt who won silver and Italian Linda Caponi with bronze. Carl Grosvenor, who

coaches Finch at Birmingham Swimming, said he was proud of her performance in a final where she competed against hugely talented swimmers.

Finch was also looking to replicate her 400m success in the 200m freestyle heat last Sunday – the final day of the World Junior Swimming Championships. Canada's Taylor Ruck – who also won the 100m event – was the winner.

Meanwhile Brittany Horton, from Brierley Hill, is preparing for the Commonwealth Youth Games in Samoa.

The 16-year-old arrived with the rest of Team England at a training camp in Auckland, New Zealand ahead of the start of the competition on Saturday (September 5).

# Chairman Lewis on 20 years not out

**GORDON Lewis can look back with great pride as he celebrates his 20th year as chairman at Himley Cricket Club.**

But you get the impression that the summer of 2015 will give him more satisfaction than any other.

The Stourbridge Road outfit have taken massive strides on and off pitch under the guidance of Lewis and a dedicated committee.

The club have progressed from the Staffs Clubs through to the top flight of the Birmingham League, built a new home, formed a thriving youth section and added a second pitch to their base.

But if Lewis was looking for the ideal way to mark his personal milestone, it came earlier this month at Oundle School in Northamptonshire, where the Himley Under-15s were crowned ECB National champions.

And Lewis, who manages the side with coach Tony Lea, is bursting with pride.

"The club has come a long way and a lot of people have put in so much work to help us achieve so many things," said Lewis, 52.

"But out of all the things we have achieved the youth section gives me the greatest amount of pride and that day at Oundle was the pinnacle of everything."

## Stepped

It's all a far cry from when Lewis stepped into the chairman's role – a position his dad also filled. "When I took over there was no junior section," said Lewis.

"For the first five years myself and Terry Pearce had 20 kids who played under-13s and under-16s. We really struggled.

"Some parents started to help us but the junior section really kicked on when Guy Whittaker took over as junior chairman.

"Guy and his committee have been incredible. The youth section is thriving and we have plenty of youngsters playing senior cricket for us on Saturdays and Sundays."

Lewis was just seven when he first went along to watch his dad play for the club.

And apart from brief spells playing for West Bromwich Nomads and Dudley, Himley has been his cricketing home.

"I used to go and watch my dad play and then



Himley chairman Gordon Lewis who has seen the club transformed in his 20 years there

I started scoring," he said. "That got me hooked on cricket. I played for a couple of other clubs for a while because I couldn't get a game at Himley and just wanted to play.

"But I came back when Dudley's ground collapsed in about 1985 and I have been here ever since."

The club bears little resemblance now to the one that wicketkeeper Lewis used to play for.

"We were in the Staffs Clubs in those days.

"The old clubhouse needed a fortune spending on it. We were left a sizeable legacy, £95,000, by our former president Bill Simpson and we had two options.

"We could spend it on the existing clubhouse or have a bash at trying to get a grant from the National Lottery." The bid for lottery cash was successful and a new clubhouse went up in 2001.

"I absolutely love the place and I plan to stick around for a while yet," he added.

## Cradley still have hopes of claiming silverware

CRADLEY boss Will Pottinger is urging his side to end the season in style with hopes still high for a trophy or two.

Heathens saw their hopes of a third successive league title dashed with defeat at Rye House. But they're in the semi-finals of both the Gold Cup and Knockout Cup which means there's still plenty to race for.

With tricky National League away meetings at Buxton and Coventry approaching, followed by the final home league clash of the season with Rye House at Perry Barr, Pottinger is hoping to see them build up a strong run of form.

Pottinger said: "It's been a tough season for us, and we are disappointed to just fall short as far as the title is concerned, but we are still looking to end the season with some silverware.

"We've been unlucky at times, we had Nathan (Greaves) and Mikey (Neale) both get injured at the same time which led to those two defeats against Mildenhall and Birmingham.

"But we've been playing catch-up since then, and even though we've given it our best shot we just didn't quite have enough in the end.

"We've still got plenty to play for though, and we are looking forward to trying to win some trophies in the Gold Cup and Knockout Cup.

"It's all still to play for, so we are looking forward to the rest of the season and hopefully finishing on a high."

Heathens are represented by Max Clegg and Ellis Perks at King's Lynn on Saturday in the National League Pairs Championship.

## First half nap hand as Darlo are trounced

### Team Dudley 5 Darlaston 0

TEAM Dudley plundered five first-half goals to inflict a first West Midlands One defeat of the season on Darlaston Town (1874). In fact, it was Town's first league defeat since April 4.

It took the hosts just three-and-half minutes to score as Ryan Spittle forced his way through the Darlaston defence to slice the ball past Chris Collins.

It was two on 17 minutes when a Nathan Jones corner curled across a packed goalmouth and struck the inside of the far post before going in.

Lee Clarke made it 3-0 with a terrific individual goal that started inside his own half.

Spittle netted his second on 37 minutes and Jones rounded Collins for the fifth.

## Bid to sign Mason hits the buffers

CRADLEY'S move to sign experienced rider David Mason has fallen through.

Heathens had verbally agreed a deal with the racer, who has been sidelined since suffering a broken leg riding for Eastbourne in June.

However, after meeting with his specialist he has been told he is not yet ready to resume racing, meaning the Heathens are now set to continue operating rider replacement for the remainder of the season.

Club director Nigel Pearson has thanked Mason for his professionalism during the process.

"As a club we always try our very best to keep our supporters informed, which is why we revealed we were very close to bringing in a new rider," Pearson said.

"We can now confirm that rider was David Mason."

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# Sport

Heathens still in  
hunt for trophies  
Page 43

Chairman marks  
20 years not out  
page 43



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## Himley win thanks to skipper's 47

MID-TABLE Himley dealt a blow to Walsall's Birmingham League cricket promotion hopes with a 76-run victory.

Despite the visitors firing 166, Walsall could only must 90 in reply, with David Powles hitting 25 and Tim Maxwell 17. Skipper Tom Kohler-Cadmore (47) and Greg Wright (37) did the damage for Himley.

Smethwick fell to a home defeat to Barnards Green as the visitors' 195 was enough to secure a 28 run victory.

Nagaash Tahir's 4-24 was a rare highlight for the hosts who were also unable to build on opener Yogesh Malhotra's 68.

Halesowen's victory over Wombourne leaves the visitors still very much in danger of the drop.

Host skipper Richard Brooker was on top form, helping himself to 5-16 as Wombourne struggled to 153.

Opener Edward Kilbee's 90 led the way for Halesowen who were comfortable seven-wicket winners.

Stourbridge suffered a disappointing home defeat by six wickets to Eastnor.

Premier Division Kidderminster Victoria kept their superb 100 per cent record in the 50-over format with a 74 run win over Walmley.

The Chester Road outfit posted an impressive 283-6 over 50 overs, with the unbeaten Michael Hill (118) and a 65 from Neil Pinner starring as Victoria again gave a good account of themselves in the win-lose format.

Walmley's Dan Chaudhry fell for 60, Tom Burton (54) and James Brookie, bank (37), as Victoria recorded another 20 points.

Current champions West Bromwich Dartmouth earned 20 points with a four-wicket win at Barnt Green.

## Tivi cup runs on as single goal sets up Glassboys tie

Market Drayton 3 Tividale 0  
TIVIDALE suffered a miserable Bank Holiday Monday as Market Drayton picked up their first Evo-Stik First Division South points of the season with a 3-0 win.

They had to dig deep to withstand a dangerous start by Tividale, inspired by an outrageous second minute effort from winger Ashley Jackson that looped high over keeper Ash Rawlings and hit the junction of bar and post.

But the opening goal, a classy near-post clip shot by Simon Everall from Michael O'Reilly's hard low 35th minute corner, was no surprise.

Tividale started the second half strongly but Drayton moved up a gear with a stunning second strike on 66 minutes through Scott Ryan.

The third, five minutes from time, saw full-back James O'Reilly get on the end of a hard low corner from brother Michael with a snap shot that skidded home through a crowded goalmouth.

Tividale's FA Cup adventure will continue, however, as they edged out Hanley Town to set up a home tie against rivals Stourbridge.

Chris Sterling scored the only goal.

## DK show promise in pre-season defeat



DK try to get the ball moving

Bromsgrove 31 DK 12

DK showed promise in this pre-season friendly, played over three periods, the first two over 30 minutes and the final one over 20.

The first period was tight with both defences stretched on occasions. It was increasingly looking like a scoreless opening period, when DK took the lead through Luke Greenwood, who touched down after a good driving maul from a lineout. This stirred Bromsgrove into action and they hit back quickly with two tries.

The second period was also won by Bromsgrove 12-7, with three tries being scored, but two of the

Rugby

three were from dropped balls. Nic Adams replied when a Bromsgrove scrummage was put under pressure on their 22, and the DK back row forced the Bromsgrove No 8 to spill the ball. Adams pounced and sped to the line, touching down. Duncan Tompkins slotted yet another touchline kick.

In the final period, Bromsgrove pressure told when a penalty was kicked into the corner. Bromsgrove sent the quick ball wide, and with a well worked backs move scoring out wide. On Sat-

## Diop brace helps brush Yeltz aside

Sutton Coldfield 3 Halesowen 0  
NEW signing Mo Diop hit a brace as Sutton Coldfield swept aside a disappointing Halesowen 3-0.

The Yeltz made a shaky defensive start as Danny O'Callaghan struck the crossbar in the 10th minute.

Halesowen's best chance fell just three minutes later when Jean-Michel Gueyes made a dangerous run down the right and crossed for George McGee to side-foot a great chance over the bar.

The Royals took a deserved lead in the 34th minute when O'Callaghan found space down the right and crossed for Diop to slot home.

Halesowen changed formation at the interval with a double substitution but the visitors made no further impression in the second half.

French striker Diop - just signed from Nuneaton - scooped over the bar in the 49th minute but soon steered home his second goal after being set up by O'Callaghan once again on the hour.

The Royals coasted towards their first victory since promotion and former Yeltz midfielder Aaron Forde made it a comprehensive 3-0 after 75 minutes with a low skidding shot.

Halesowen Town 2 Workington 0  
MANAGER John Hill praised his team's hard work in bouncing back to winning ways after Greg Pearson and Isaac Cooper scored their first Halesowen goals.

The Yeltz took the lead just eight minutes in when Joe Hull headed on Jay Denny's free-kick for Pearson to turn and fire past Alex Mitchell.

The second goal in the 73rd minute owed much to the perseverance of substitute Cooper after he forced Joshua Calvert into a mistake and further confusion with goalkeeper Mitchell allowed him to nip in and slot home.

## Mayor's support for hockey fest

THE Mayor of Dudley, Councillor Steve Waltho will try his hand at hockey this weekend to show his support for efforts to get more people into the game.

To coincide with British Hockey's 'hockey fest', Dudley Ladies Hockey Club is offering women the chance to try the sport for the first time or even return after time out.

Coaches and players will be on hand to teach new skills, set up mini games and inspire people to get back into hockey.

The session will run from 1-3pm on Saturday at The Dell Stadium in Bryce Road, Brierley Hill. All equipment will be provided as well as refreshments afterwards.

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# STOUR PEGGED BACK LATE ON

Stourbridge 2 Rushall Olympic 2  
RUSHALL twice came from behind the earn a share of the spoils in this bank holiday derby clash.

And they almost sneaked the win deep in injury time, Glassboys keeper Lewis Solly pulling off an excellent save to keep out a fierce Luke Benbow effort to keep the score at 2-2.

The Pics goal led a charmed life and that continued a moment before the break when a Matt Dodd shot was deflected just the wrong side of the far post.

Lewis Solly was finally forced into a save five minutes into the second half when he kept out another point blank Benbow effort but it was the home side who broke the deadlock on 55 minutes when Chris Lait slotted home the loose ball after a Broadhurst free-kick had been parried by Dean Coleman.

Benbow was causing problems for the home defence and he hauled Rushall level on 71 minutes with a gem of a shot that cannoned off the crossbar and into the net.

Striker Kayelden Brown was one of three second half substitutes used by the Glassboys and within five minutes of taking the field he had restored their lead.

On 79 minutes he had a shot straight at keeper Coleman but a minute later he made amends with a thundering effort from the edge of the area.

But it was all square again two minutes from time, Rushall defender Jack Duggan heading in a Jordan Fitzpatrick corner.

Skelmersdale 1 Stourbridge 2  
LEON Broadhurst's double helped Stourbridge to victory at Skelmersdale after playing the last 15 minutes with ten men.

Stour were stuck in traffic on the way up but started brightly.

The opener came from Broadhurst with a header from a Chris Lait free-kick 20 minutes in. Tom Tonks also hit the crossbar in the first half.

Broadhurst's second came halfway through the second half when he unleashed an unstoppable left-footed free-kick from the edge of the box after Kristian Green had been pulled down.

Chris Knight was sent off towards the end, pulling Danny Mitchell down in the area. The striker converted the penalty.

## Hosts maintain grip on title



Himley's Nigel Davenport celebrates his club's floodlit win at their home ground

HOSTS Himley were able to retain their grip on the Joe Brandrick trophy as they defended their Black Country Floodlit T20 title.

Wolverhampton were this year's beaten finalists as their innings of 182 proved not to be enough with Himley securing a six wicket victory.

The tournament runs over five days and is the brainchild of Himley skipper Greg Wright.

Stourbridge and Brewrod were the other clubs that entered the five-day tournament, which sees three nights of action under the floodlights, including an invitational match on the Thursday evening.

A 'Birmingham League XI' takes on a side

put together from each of the Staffordshire, Shropshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire feeder leagues.

Club chairman Gordon Lewis insisted the event was getting bigger and bigger. He said: "There were over 500 fans at Friday's final cheering the lads on. It's a cracking event and really well-supported."

"Its reputation is growing so much that it is now one of the stand-out competitions of the season."

"There's a lot of graft that goes in to ensure it goes ahead."

"We knew 182 wasn't going to be enough for Wolverhampton."

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